

Triumph over adversity

Jokes that kept the spirits up on the troubled QE2 cruise, page 4

Stocking fillers

Secrets of the perfect piece of frivolity, page 5

Julian Critchley

Why Major must ignore the revolting upstart Right, page 12

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THE TIMES

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 22 1994

Tory support lowest ever recorded

Only 8 per cent satisfied with the Government, says MORI

By Peter Riddell
Political Editor

THE Government is more unpopular than any in polling history, while Labour has achieved a record lead over the Conservatives, according to the latest MORI poll for The Times, undertaken last weekend.

It provides dismal reading for John Major and the fractious Tory party after a turbulent year in which every turning point has proved illusory. The results confirm Tory MPs' worst fears, with just one in 12 of the public approving the Government's record.

Labour support has risen to 61 per cent, compared with 55 per cent last month. Backing for the Tories has fallen by two points over the past month to a new low of 22 per

cent, giving Labour a 39-point lead. The Liberal Democrats have been squeezed by Labour's progress, dropping four points over the past month to 13 per cent.

Two-thirds of those questioned by MORI believe that Labour is ready to form the next government, while a quarter disagree. Nearly three-fifths believe that Tony Blair is ready to be Prime Minister, just five months after he was elected Labour leader, outnumbering those who disagree by more than two to one.

Labour's poll ratings appear unsustainably high, but they show the extent of the public's disillusionment with the Tories. Unless the

Tory party's standing improves before the local elections in the spring, Mr Major's leadership could again be called into question.

Only 8 per cent are satisfied with the way the Government is running the country, while 86 per cent of respondents said they were dissatisfied. The previous low, 10 per cent, was recorded in July. Even 59 per cent of Tory supporters are unhappy with the Government's record, while 29 per cent are satisfied.

The Prime Minister achieves only a slightly higher approval rating: 18 per cent are happy with the way he

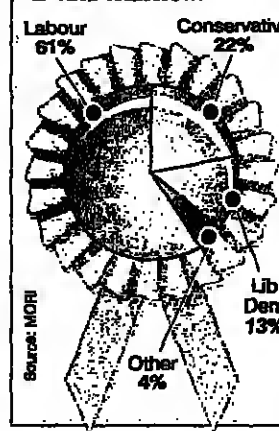
is doing his job, but 74 per cent are dissatisfied. His backing fell to a record low of 17 per cent in August. Fifty per cent of Tory supporters approve of Mr Major's performance, with about 40 per cent dissatisfied.

By contrast, Mr Blair's personal ratings are more favourable than those ever achieved by Neil Kinnock or John Smith. Roughly half the public are satisfied with his performance, and less than a fifth are unhappy. Labour supporters are satisfied by a margin of nearly ten to one. Forty per cent of respondents are content with Paddy Ashdown's record, and 29 per cent dissatisfied.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,769 adults at 143 constituency sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on December 15 to 19. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (8 per cent), are undecided (8 per cent) or refuse to name a party (2 per cent).

William Rees-Mogg, and Julian Critchley, page 12

Q How would you vote if there were a general election tomorrow?



Major plans crusade to put Great back into Britain

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

THE GOVERNMENT is to organise an unprecedented high-profile conference early next year to rekindle public confidence in Britain's greatness.

The Prime Minister will invite the Labour Party to join Cabinet ministers, businessmen and academics in public debate to 'convince' public opinion that Britain still has assets, such as its language, international expertise and armed forces, that can be better exploited to bolster Britain's position in the world.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will take the lead in trumpeting British strengths which are admired abroad but, he believes, too often

ignored at home. These include the overwhelming use of English around the globe as well as British experience in privatisation, police training, aiding developing countries and helping governments to make their armies professional and free from political bias.

The conference, marking the 75th anniversary of Chatham House, will probably be opened by John Major, and ministers from the Ministry of Defence, the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry will also take part. The BBC and the British Council, increasingly seen as vital in furthering Britain's influence and cultural outreach, will be invited to join the examination of Britain's particular strengths today: its diplomatic and military pro-

fessionalism; the promotion of privatisation, business and free trade; aid to new democracies through the Know-How fund, which provides expertise for the former Eastern Bloc, and foundations promoting the Westminster model of democracy; and the cultural values underpinning British dominance in the media, education and broadcasting.

This is the most ambitious government attempt to 'sell' Britain at home as well as abroad. The aim is to stimulate an intensive debate on foreign policy and whether Britain can and should 'punch above its weight'. The Government believes that trade benefits would result from a more vigorous assertion of British strengths.

Mr Hurd hopes such a conference would reassure exporters and foreigners that Britain's steady post-war decline has now halted. In some parts of the world — India, the Middle East and America, for example — he finds a warm appreciation of Britain's influence.

Critics will be encouraged to question the basis of Britain's foreign policy; some may even repeat the provocative contention that the Foreign Office should be replaced by a fax. Much will be made of the predominance of English in world trade and international politics.

The Government is convinced that within the European Union things are now moving Britain's way. It sees a growing British presence in the Gulf, the former Soviet republics and Latin America. What is lacking is public confidence at home. That is what the conference proposes to address.

Judge critical of CSA rulings

A High Court judge questioned yesterday whether the Child Support Agency gave enough weight to children's welfare in making its assessments. The criticism of the agency came only a day after the Government's disclosure that it was shelving 350,000 cases. Page 2

Berlusconi pledge

Silvio Berlusconi prolonged the agony of the demise of his administration yesterday, telling parliament that Italy faces no alternative to an early general election if MPs vote him out of office. Page 9

Dean Rusk dies

Dean Rusk, former US Secretary of State who presided over the most momentous years of the Cold War, has died in Georgia. He was 85. Obituary, page 14



Rescuers at the scene of the Air Algérie crash in which five people died. The aircraft clipped the roofs of a house

Families missed by inches as five killed in jumbo jet crash

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

AN Air Algérie cargo plane crashed into a wood yards from a housing estate in Coventry yesterday, killing all five people on board. The plane, which had been diverted briefly because of fog, clipped the roofs of two houses and hit an electricity pylon before it hit the ground.

The Boeing 737, which was heading for Coventry's Baginbun Airport from East Midlands Airport, exploded in a ball of flame after the impact, shortly before 10am, but no injuries were reported on the ground.

Seven air-crash investigators began examining the wreckage last night to discover whether pilot error or mechanical failure had caused

the incident. They will be hoping that yesterday's crash will not remain unsolved like two crashes involving the same make of plane in the United States.

The first was in March 1991 when a United Airlines Boeing 737-200 flipped over as it approached Colorado Springs airport, killing five crew members and 20 passengers. The second was in September this year, when a USAir 737-200 nose-dived into a ravine outside Pittsburgh and exploded, killing all 132 passengers and crew.

The Air Algérie jet, which had originally taken off in Amsterdam, had been converted to carry cargo, including British cattle. The practice

provoked many complaints from animal rights groups and sabotage is being considered as a remote but possible explanation for the accident, which took place on the sixth anniversary of the Lockerbie disaster.

The three Algerian crew and two British livestock handlers died instantly after the 21-year old plane, which was on a ten-minute flight after a diversion, hit the ground.

The two Britons were identified last night as Adrian Sharpe, 31, from Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and Andrew Yates, 22, from Rugby, Warwickshire.

Christopher Barrett-Jolly, director of Phoenix Aviation, which leased the aircraft, said:

"I have received threats against flights, and one of those threats included doing damage to an aircraft. I have no doubt that this will form part of the police investigation."

He said he would continue with the flights: "My present concern is obviously the families of the deceased. I will not say when the flights will resume again but can be assured that they will."

Residents on the Willenhall estate had a miraculous escape as the plane, which was carrying six tonnes of fuel, swerved away from their houses and crashed into a nearby wood.

Details, analysis, page 3
Magnus Linklater, page 10

Halifax premium cut leads to home insurance war

By Robert Miller

HOME insurance premiums are likely to tumble after the Halifax, the country's largest building society, cut the cost of its building-related policies yesterday.

After January 1 some customers could be paying up to £70 less when their policies come up for renewal. The Halifax said that the average reduction would be a fifth but it could be as high as three fifths, depending on where the property is. The society's new deal also includes the introduction of a no-claims discount for a claim-free year, to take effect from 1996.

The move will be followed by other big insurers in what is sure to become a pricing war. This has already happened in private motor insurance, where premiums have fallen by 15 per cent in a year. Sun Alliance confirmed that premiums were falling after a long period of mild weather and companies' improved experience of subsidence claims.

The premium pricing war has been sparked by the suc-

cess of Direct Line, the telephone-based insurance company, which has attracted more than 500,000 people to switch their policies. In a submission to the Office of Fair Trading last year, Direct Line said that consumers were paying more than £1 billion a year to banks and building societies in commissions generated by the sale of home insurance policies.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, has cleared the £90 billion merger of the Halifax and Leeds building societies in a move that brought criticism from the Labour Party (Anne Ashworth writes).

Dr Jack Cunningham, Shadow Trade Secretary, said that Mr Heseltine, acting on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading, had given his assent to the deal with extraordinary speed, given the mortgage market share that will be achieved by the combined societies.

Merger cleared, page 23

YOUNG OR OLD THE PAIN'S THE SAME

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Surprise choice to head Major's kitchen cabinet



Blackwell: thought to be in touch with grassroots

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR has chosen a leading management consultant "with a Rolls-Royce mind" to be his chief policy adviser in the run-up to the next general election.

Norman Blackwell, 42, announced as the surprise choice to be the new head of the Downing Street policy unit, will take charge of drawing up the election manifesto at a time when Conservative fortunes have never been lower.

Mr Blackwell, said to be on the centre-right but not an ideologue, will take over from Sarah Hogg, who is leaving the unit at the end of January after four years in a job that has been dubbed "deputy prime

minister". Other better-known candidates, including Francis Maude, the former Treasury Minister, have been considered for the job, and Mr Maude is understood to have turned it down.

But ministers, who described Mr Blackwell as a hard-headed pragmatist, said he would be a valuable ally to Mr Major in what seems certain to be an even more testing period over the next two years. He is an active local politician, and a former ward chairman, a factor which colleagues believe will appeal to Tory MPs anxious that the Government is out of touch with the grassroots. He was chairman of the Cambridge University Conservative Association in 1973.

Mr Blackwell, who will be paid £87,435 a year, will be returning to the unit where he worked in 1986 and 1987, including during the election of that year, under Lord Griffiths of Forestfach. He was deeply involved in work on the inner cities and was the key thinker behind the drive to give council tenants more power through the housing action trusts announced in the 1987 manifesto.

He has been a partner of McKinsey and Co, the international management consultants, since 1984. Howard Davies, now Director-General of the CBI, was with the same company when he became special adviser to Nigel Lawson, then Chancellor of Exchequer, in 1985.

Lord Griffiths said last night: "Mr Major has made an outstanding appointment. He was one of the best people I ever worked with. He has an absolutely Rolls-Royce mind. He is politically sensitive and a practical person."

"I think he will be a great success. A Prime Minister needs someone who does not have an agenda of their own and who does not want the limelight. It is the Prime Minister who must take the stage. Norman will fit ideally into that."

Mr Blackwell's appointment completes a clean sweep of Mr Major's "kitchen cabinet". Last month he appointed a new political secretary, Howell James, and during the past year he has taken on a new press secretary, Christopher Meyer, and

parliamentary private secretary, John Ward. Mr Major first met Mr Blackwell during his earlier stint at the policy unit when he was Social Security Minister. He was said to have formed a high opinion of him at that time, and they have developed a good relationship during interviews for the post.

Mr Blackwell, married with five children, graduated from Cambridge in natural sciences in 1973, before receiving a master's degree in business administration at the Wharton business school, University of Pennsylvania, in 1975 and a PhD in finance and economics the following year. He is an amateur musician and a walker.

MORI poll, page 1

University replaces national anthem

Queen's University, Belfast, is to drop the national anthem from graduation ceremonies on the ground that it is inappropriate. The Rev. Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, has condemned the move as outrageous and insulting.

The University's Senate has voted to play instead the European Union's anthem — *Ode to Joy* from Beethoven's 9th Symphony — to create a "harmonious and neutral" environment. The national anthem may be played at other events.

B-test failures

One in 20 people breathalysed in the first three days of the Christmas campaign against drink-driving failed the test. The figure, a slight decrease on the same period last year, is expected to rise this week.

Teacher wins

Madeline Kendrick, 60, of Farnham, Surrey, a teacher sacked after being accused of spreading rumours about her headmaster, was awarded £5,000 after an industrial tribunal ruled disciplinary procedures were not followed.

£2.75m for beat

A 2½-mile salmon beat on the river Spey has been bought by a consortium for an estimated £2.75 million. The Wester Elchies beat was put on the market last year after the death of its owner, the pools millionaire Sir John Moores.

Office death

The body of Lucy Agnew, 71, has been found in a storeroom at the office where she worked ten days after she went missing. Police think Mrs Agnew, of Southampton, collapsed while she was in the cupboard and fell against the door.

Boy's trip halted

An overseas sailing holiday for a teenager accused of burglaries and car crime has been scrapped after a public outcry. Sunderland social services cancelled funding for the 13-year-old boy's trip yesterday.

Street stabbing

A 32-year-old vagrant was being held last night after a man was stabbed with a carving knife in front of shoppers in the centre of Liverpool. The victim, who was in his 20s, died soon after reaching hospital.

School's £7m list

A £7.7 million windfall for Canford School, near Bourne-mouth, from the sale of a 3,000-year-old Assyrian frieze discovered on the tuckshop wall is to be spent on a scholarship programme, a sports centre and a theatre.

Hospital at fault

A hospital in Madrid was held 60 per cent to blame for the death of Roy Kinnear after a film-set fall from a horse. The High Court ruling means the Ruber hospital must pay 60 per cent of the £650,000 already paid to the actor's family by Falconfilms.

Judge joins CSA critics as third of cases shelved

By A STAFF REPORTER

AFTER the Government's disclosure that the Child Support Agency was shelving 350,000 cases, the troubled agency suffered further criticism yesterday when a High Court judge questioned whether it gave enough weight to children's welfare in making its assessments.

The revelation that the CSA was indefinitely postponing a third of its workload came from Alistair Burt, a Social Security Minister, in a Commons written reply on Tuesday. He rejected claims that the move was a panic measure, saying the agency was suffering "teething problems".

Mr Burt said it would shelve cases involving parents who were caring for children and claiming income support before April 1993. For "the time being" it would not pursue cases in which parents had failed to return a maintenance application form for more than six months.

Donald Dewar, Shadow Social Security Secretary, said yesterday: "It's a panic measure of the worst sort."

Reaction from pressure groups was mixed. Families Without Fathers said anything addressing the "crucial impact" of the CSA was good news, but the latest move did

not address "basic flaws". The Network Against the Child Support Act said the move proved the CSA was unable to cope because the legislation was unworkable, while the Campaign against the Child Support Act said the decision was "the best Christmas present for hundreds of thousands of families".

But Sue Slipman, director of the National Council for One Parent Families, condemned the move as "a devastating blow to all those lone parents who looked to the CSA to get the maintenance they so badly need to escape from the benefits trap". Sally Withcher, direc-

tor of the Child Poverty Action Group attacked the move as "a panic solution to the crisis that faces the CSA".

Meanwhile in the High Court, Mr Justice Thorpe ruled that an absent father could not legally challenge the agency's assessments on how much he must pay for his two sons.

However, he voiced "considerable sympathy" for the father's position and noted that the CSA had argued that legally it "has only to notice [the welfare of children] in passing". If that was so, the title Child Support Agency seemed "hollow indeed".

Roy Biggin, 39, from Arleigh, Essex, argued that the CSA failed properly to take into account his difficulties in providing for his two stepchildren from his second family when it ordered £80-a-week to be deducted from his pay for his two natural children. The judge expressed "considerable sympathy" for Mr Biggin's position.

However, he said, the section of the Child Support Act headed "Welfare of children — the general principle" had little influence when the CSA applied its formula for working out how much an absent parent should pay.

A CSA spokesman said the action had been against the Social Security Department rather than the agency and declined to comment.



Lewis: private meeting

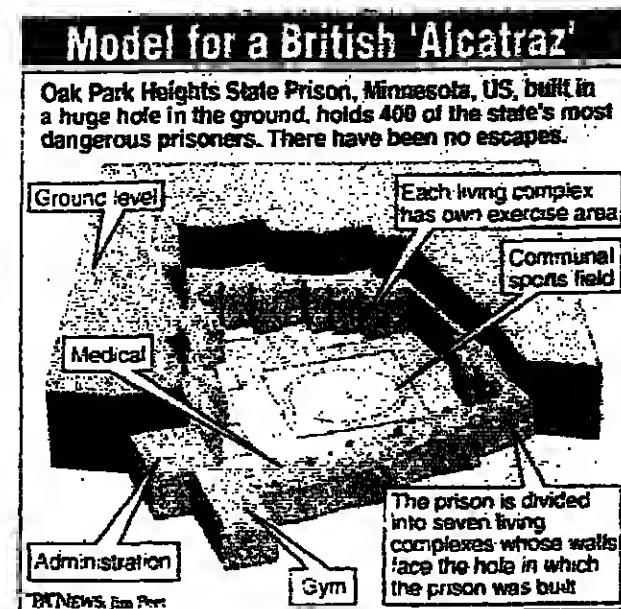
Single top security jail 'recipe for trouble'

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

BUILDING a single US-style jail for top security inmates could be dangerous and lead to serious disorder, prison authorities were warned yesterday. A prison governor said it would create a "no-hope" situation resulting in riots involving dangerous and desperate men.

After the Whitmore breakout, the prison service is to consider a similar jail to Oak Park Heights in Minnesota, which holds a maximum of 400 prisoners and has not had an escape since it was built in 1982.

The move was announced by Derek Lewis, the Director-General of the prison service, at a private meeting, with governors on Monday, although a spokesman for the service said yesterday that the mention of Oak Park Heights had merely been a



passing reference and there were no plans to build such a prison in Britain. He confirmed that an American expert had been invited to help in a general examination of prison security.

Such a jail, holding 130 top security prisoners, would end the policy of 25 years of dispersing high-risk inmates around six key jails. After investigating the escape of the spy George Blake, Earl Mountbatten of Burma recommended in 1966 that one prison, to house a maximum of 120 inmates, should be built on the Isle of Wight, but his proposal was rejected in favour of dispersal.

Sir Leon Radzinowicz, who headed the committee that advised on dispersal, said yesterday that there were serious risks to housing such prisoners together. "The danger is that if you have a very high concentration of such people, they can cause seri-

ous disorder. There can be control problems."

Like the infamous Alcatraz jail, which is set on an island off San Francisco, Oak Park Heights uses the natural contours of the land as an aid to security. Roy King, professor of criminology at the University of Wales at Bangor, said it was built in an enormous hole and surrounded by earth walls. There are linked living units of about 50 inmates each with cells on the ground floor and work and study rooms above. Each unit, complete with its own exercise yard, faces inward.

Professor King said: "It is an extremely successful prison which has not had any serious incident of disorder." The former governor of Whitmore has pulled out of a planned speech about jail security. Andrew Barclay had been booked to address the Cambridge University Centre Business Club next month.

Ruling leaves judge unable to punish baby's killer

By CATHERINE MILTON AND FRANCES GIBB

A TEENAGER convicted of cruelty to her baby who died after his head was swung against a wall walked free from the Old Bailey yesterday after a judge said he was prevented by a legal loophole from punishing anyone properly.

Judge Pownall said he believed that David Larkin, the lover of the baby's mother, Clare Taylor, was responsible for Darren Lee's "dreadful death" when he was nine months old. In their separate trials for cruelty, Taylor, 19, and Larkin, 32, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, blamed each other.

The case brought renewed

calls for the closure of the loophole which child welfare campaigners say has allowed the killers of at least six children to escape prosecution for murder or manslaughter.

In a ruling handed down in 1991, the Court of Appeal quashed two convictions for the manslaughter of a 16-month-old girl because there was no evidence as to which of her parents was responsible for the toddler's death.

Larkin was jailed for three years last month after being found guilty of cruelty on the ground that he should have prevented Taylor from harming Darren. He has appealed against both his conviction

and sentence. Imposing a 12-month conditional discharge on Taylor, Judge Pownall said: "I find myself in an unenviable position. On the one hand Darren suffered a dreadful death for which someone should be very severely punished. I don't believe, myself, that person is you, it is truly Larkin."

Detective Chief Inspector Colin Westwood later said: "We have to work within the law and because there were no independent witnesses and neither Taylor nor Larkin sought to explain to us how Darren sustained his injuries, they could not be charged with murder or manslaughter."

Lorry firm in death crash loses licence

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE haulage firm whose runaway lorry killed six people at Sowerby Bridge in West Yorkshire was ordered off the roads yesterday. A government-appointed transport commissioner disqualified Fawcett Transport from operating its vehicles from midnight tonight.

Tony Evers, Fawcett's managing director and Eric Preston, the firm's former transport manager, were disqualified from holding a goods vehicle operating licence for a year and three years respectively. However, the company, based in Skipton, North Yorkshire, will today ask the Transport Tribunal in London for a 14-day stay of the decision to give it time to appeal.

Fawcett had applied to renew its operating licence and increase its fleet from 30 to 35 vehicles during a three-day public inquiry in Leeds last week, but it was opposed by Calderdale District Council, which includes the crash scene, and by relatives of the victims.

Severed limbs found in murder village attic

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE severed head and limbs of a third murder victim were found by police in the attic of a house in the Suffolk village of Bramford yesterday as bereavement counsellors moved in to help the traumatised community.

Detectives investigating the savage triple killings which took place in the space of eight days were last night still questioning a man who had discharged himself from a mental hospital where he was a voluntary in-patient.

The man was said to have been living rough after returning to his home village recently. He was detained after police investigating the murders of two elderly people earlier appealed for sightings of Jason Mitchell, 24.

The third victim, whose body had been dismembered, was his father, Bob Mitchell, who was strangled at his home 200 yards from where Arthur Wilson, 65, and his wife, Shirley, 61, were found strangled last week.

CHRISTMAS IN THE TIMES



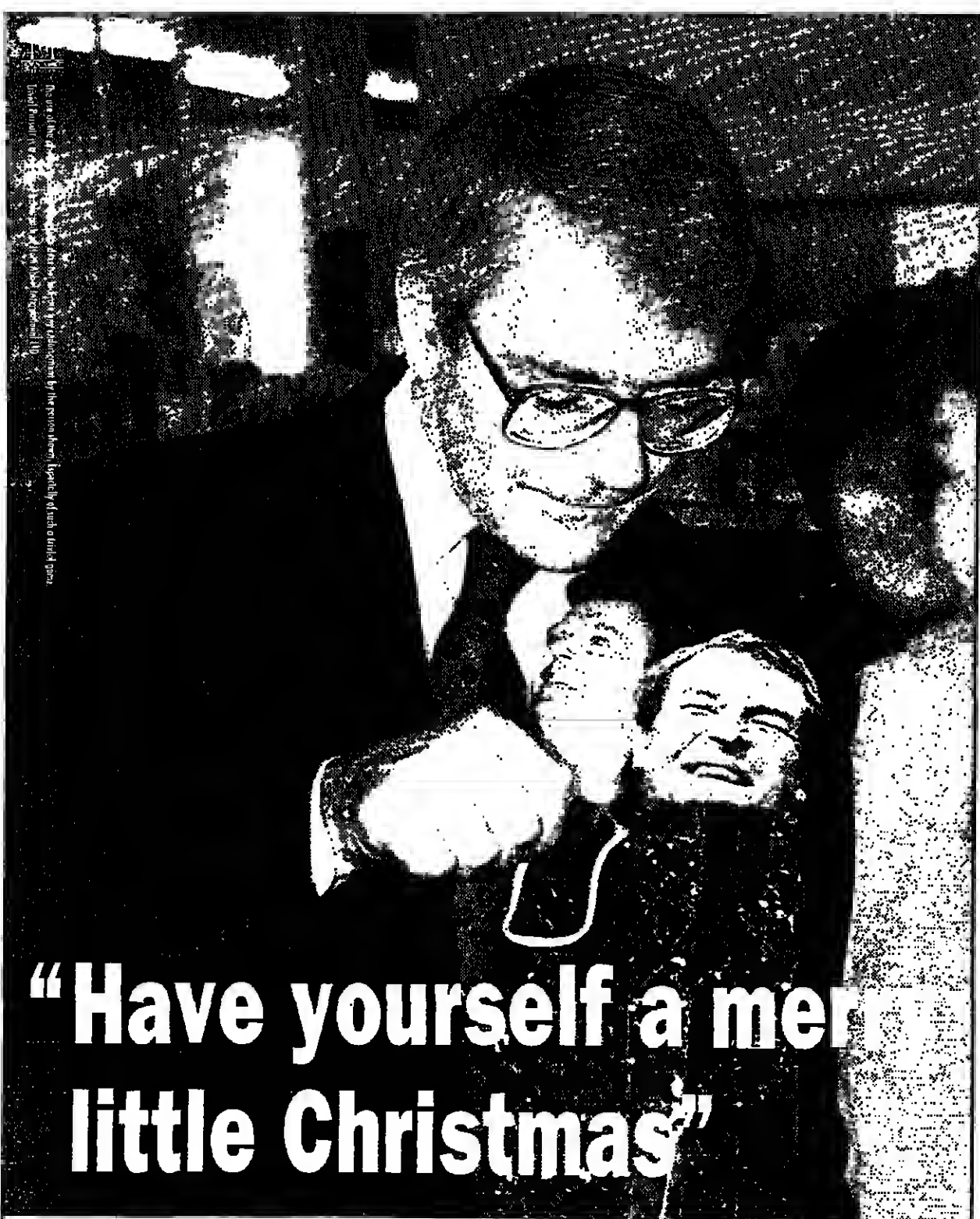
THE LAST-MINUTE SHOPPER'S GOOD GIFT GUIDE

Plus: the £100 prize jumbo crossword — and quizzes with fizz: win jeroaboams of champagne ON

CHRISTMAS EVE

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A ROUND-THE-WORLD TRIP FOR TWO WORTH £64,000 ON

BOXING DAY



"Have yourself a merry little Christmas"

Thanks John, that was the seasonal favourite that Judy Garland sang to Margaret O'Brien in 'Meet Me In St. Louis'. And a Happy New Year to you too!

Trivial Pursuit

As irrelevant today as it's always been.

'Plane was like a giant shadow in the sky and I thought I was going to die'



The Boeing 737 sliced off the top of an electricity pylon and clipped tiles from the roof of a house before crashing into woodland, where the wreckage lies yards from the edge of the Willenhall estate

Air crash confirms estate families' worst fears

By KATE ALDERSON AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

IN THICK fog above the 2,500 homes of the Willenhall estate, two miles short of Coventry Airport, flight ACE702P crashed into an electricity pylon and lost control. It was 9.55am and the plane was making the final leg of a journey from Amsterdam, having been diverted to East Midlands Airport because of bad weather.

The Air Algérie plane, ready to collect a cargo of up to 200 live calves, took off from East

After clipping the top of an 80ft pylon, clearly knocking off the triangular top section, the aircraft struggled to gain control, careered towards four rows of small terraced houses known as Fieldmarch and brushed the top of the roof of house No 17, dislodging at least half a dozen tiles.

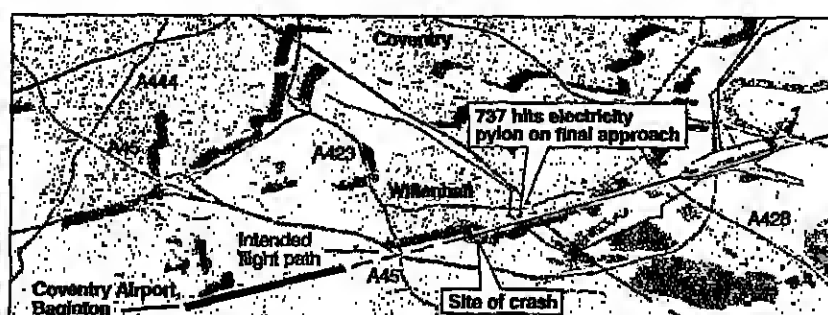
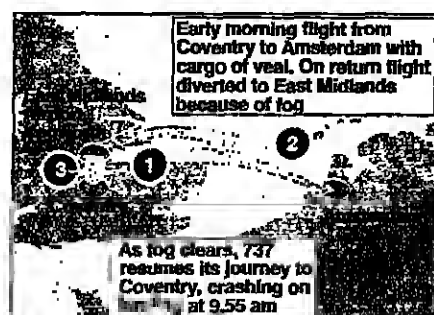
As the aircraft headed towards a small wood adjoining the housing estate it smashed into streetlights and nosedived into a clearing in woodland. Flaming wreckage flew across the field and a plume of smoke and flames rose from the aircraft.

CRASH SITE

Midlands at 9.32am. Residents of the estate, where many have bought their own homes from the council, were quietly cursing the low-flying aircraft as it headed noisily towards the airport. They have campaigned for many years against flights to Coventry Airport, and have been particularly angered by the frequency of flights during the past five weeks of Boeing 737s involved in the meat trade.

The mangled aircraft, its white, red and green livery still visible, came to rest 300 to 400 yards from homes. Within 20 minutes of the crash 12 fire engines arrived and houses and maisonettes were cordoned off by police.

The aftermath of the fire-fighting operation has left dozens of streets ankle deep in foam and the homes directly under the flight path have been evacuated and their resi-



dents interviewed by police and offered counselling.

Bewildered people stood around in groups, unable to grasp how close to a greater disaster they had been. Ronald Bullock, who lives 300 yards from the crash site, was one of the first on the scene. "I was upstairs when I heard a huge bang and I ran out of the house. I could smell fuel fumes and saw a huge fire, the smoke was billowing everywhere."

Mr Bullock, 30, said his first thoughts were for any survivors. "The middle of the plane was still fairly intact and Alec, my friend, climbed up near the wreckage but couldn't see anyone. The heat was pushing

us back and as I walked away I saw the remains of a human body."

Along with many other residents on the estate Mr Bullock said the pilot appeared to have averted a major disaster. "The plane was so close to the houses and the pilot appears to have been trying to get into the open field. If he was trying to avoid us, then he is a hero."

Evelyn Davis, 69, who lives in Leyds Road close to the crash site, has been campaigning against Phoenix Aviation's livestock flights since they began five weeks ago. She and dozens of other residents have picketed the airport every day. "These flights have been a

disaster waiting to happen," she said.

"Every day we would say the same thing. The planes fly eight feet above our houses six times every day. I have reported every low-flying incident to Coventry Airport and they told us to stop being silly. They said an accident could never happen."

Hilda Craner lives in one of four rows of houses over which the aircraft flew said the aircraft was tilting heavily as it clipped the roof of the house two streets away. "It was as if the pilot was trying to set the plane on course again."

Karen England had joked with her husband Mark the

evening before about leaving a cup of coffee in the garden for the pilot. Yesterday a piece of fuselage lay close to her garden gate and another lump of green metal was lodged in a tree close to her home. "I had just gone to the bathroom," she said. "I heard a sound and saw the plane hitting a tree opposite. I looked through the window and all I could see was pieces of tree and wreckage raining down. It must have missed us by inches."

Josephine McLennan said: "Just as I opened the dining room curtains, the plane hit the pylon in front of me. It was coming straight at me. It was

like a giant shadow in the sky and I thought I was going to die."

Among those arriving to look at the wreckage through the bare trees were Pamela Brown and Jill Phipps, from Coventry Animal Alliance. The police watched them closely and asked reporters what they had been saying. The group has been picketing Coventry Airport since November, taking direct non-violent action against the transportation of live calves. The flight that crashed contained no animals.

The alliance called off its protest at the airport yesterday and within two hours of the crash staged a demonstration outside Coventry council's offices in the city centre.

A spokesman for the council said: "Residents living near an airport do have grave concerns over noise pollution and safety. These were taken into consideration at the time of their complaints. We are very appalled by the tragic loss of life caused by the terrible crash. Our condolences go out to all the families involved."

TIMETABLE	
4.52am: Air Algérie ACE702P leaves Coventry Airport for Amsterdam. Unloads cargo of cattle and returns to Coventry.	
7.35am: The Boeing 737 is diverted to East Midlands Airport because of fog.	
8.12am: Lands at East Midlands Airport.	
9.32am: Departs for Coventry.	
9.55am: Plane strikes a pylon and clips two houses at Willenhall. Crashes two miles short of the city's airport.	
9.56am: Police receive first emergency call.	
10am: Paramedics, firefighters and police arrive at the scene.	
10.15am: Police set up telephone hotline and receive 150 calls in the first hour.	

Exporter threatened by animal rights groups

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX Aviation began flying livestock to the Continent in October after the main cross-Channel ferries banned such cargo. The flights have angered animal rights activists, and were banned at one stage because of security fears.

Two of Phoenix's animal handlers were on board the Boeing 737 cargo plane, leased from Air Algérie. The company, based at Frankton, near Rugby, transports more than 5,000 calves a week to Amsterdam and Rennes in northwest France. It has five flights on weekdays and a restricted service on Saturday. Each plane carries about 190 animals.

It is the only company in Britain exporting livestock by air. "We have no cargo fleet of our own and have to charter all our aircraft," a company spokeswoman said. The Ministry of Agriculture gave its approval for the service despite protests from

animal welfare groups which led the campaign to stop the ferry trade. They want all animals for export to be slaughtered in this country.

William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, said the live export trade was lawful and should continue if welfare regulations were followed. Aircraft equipped with straw-bedded livestock pens offered better condi-

THE COMPANY

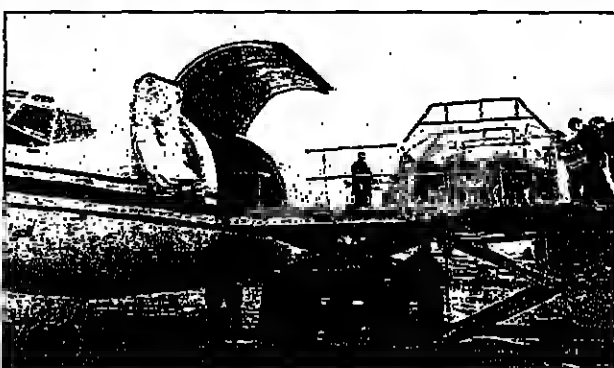
tions than roll-on, roll-off ferries on which animals were packed into lorries.

Chris Barrett-Jolley, managing director of Phoenix Aviation, said last night: "We have had many anonymous threats from animal rights militants, including even threats against our aircraft, though I very much doubt that anyone would have the technical ability to cause an accident of this kind. Our

head offices have been attacked. People invaded the grounds and smashed windows, vandalised cars and smeared graffiti on walls, forcing us to hire guards."

Respect for Animals, the welfare group that first proposed a boycott of ferries carrying livestock, said yesterday that it would step up its campaign to end all animal exports. Mark Glover, chief spokesman, said: "We are concerned by the use of a 21-year-old aircraft from a small airline and the undue haste with which these export routes were set up."

On November 3, Coventry City Council banned the flights because of fears that airport security would be jeopardised by animal rights protests. The council backed down two days later after Mr Barrett-Jolley threatened an £8.5 million suit for damages. On November 15 a High Court judge ruled that a ban would be illegal.



An Air Algérie cargo plane being loaded with cattle

Grim reminder for Lockerbie relatives

By ANDREW PIERCE

WHEN the Air Algérie Boeing 737 burst into flames yesterday, relatives and friends of those who died in the Lockerbie tragedy were marking the sixth anniversary of Britain's worst air disaster.

Some of those who were going to the candlelit ceremony at Westminster Abbey, central London, last night wept when they heard that the plane had crashed only 100 from the nearest home. On

December 21, 1988, all 259 passengers and 11 people in Lockerbie died when Flight 103 crashed after an Arab terrorist bomb exploded.

Dr Jim Swire, whose daughter Flora died, said: "I give thanks that no one on the ground was killed. It would have been unbearable if others had to go through the same as us on the very anniversary."

Magnus Linklater, page 10

Workhorse airliner is the world's bestseller

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE twin-engine, short-range Boeing 737 is the best-selling airliner ever and regarded as the workhorse of the aviation industry.

The makers claim it has an excellent safety record, and more than 3,000 have been delivered to airlines worldwide since it first went into service in December 1967.

British Airways and British Midland still use the plane because it is popular and easy to fly. However, many British charter airlines are switching to bigger aircraft such as the Boeing 757 or ordering the European Airbus A320 with its advanced electronics.

Although the Boeing 737-200 that crashed was 21 years old, there is no reason why well-maintained aircraft should not fly for many years. An aviation expert once reckoned that if a family car was kept as well as a plane it would last 6,000 years.

Rudder problems are

being investigated as a possible cause of the crash of a USAir 737 near Pittsburgh in September, in which all 132 on board died, and of the crash of a 737 in Colorado Springs in 1991.

The Seattle Times, which covers the district where Boeing aircraft are built, reported in October that the 737's rudder had prompted 46 "service difficulty reports".

THE AIRCRAFT

in American aviation authorities.

In 1988, the US Federal Aviation Administration ordered thousands of rivets to be replaced on ageing 737s to stop their fuselages cracking. The ruling followed a metal-fatigue accident when the top half of an aircraft tore off in Hawaii, sucking a stewardess out of the plane. This was similar to an accident in 1981 when a 737 disintegrated in

mid-air over Taiwan, killing all 110 passengers and crew.

In August 1985, 55 people died in the Manchester Airport disaster when a British Airways 737 burst into flames as it was about to take off. Most were killed by poisonous smoke before they could get out.

In January 1989, 47 people died and 67 were seriously injured when a British Midland 737 crashlanded on the M1 at Kegworth while trying to make an emergency landing at East Midlands airport after an engine fire.

In the latest accident, the black box data recorder will hold vital clues. It gives readings of height, speed and the performance of the aircraft's hydraulics and engines. The 30-strong Air Accidents Investigation Branch is often able to give an initial clue to the cause of a crash within 12 hours of analysing the plane's flight recorder.

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QE2 passengers joke but insist voyage is no laughing matter

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

EQUAL measures of the Dunkirk spirit and gallows humour were reported by passengers on board the QE2 last night as the liner headed through choppy waters to New York, where it is due to dock 13 hours late at 9pm local time today.

A further 471 British holidaymakers are flying to New York this morning to join the liner, which yesterday still had only sporadic heating and running water.

Those staying on for the Caribbean leg of the cruise were to be taken on a tour of Manhattan, but have been told the trip is off. The captain has also indicated that the 1,000 passengers may have to miss one of the islands on the itinerary.

Merrilyn Wesley, a management trainer for Midland bank, said a mood of jocular determination prevailed on board. "The in-joke among the passengers at the moment is that we're sailing on the QE1/4, although that's proba-

bly being generous," she said. "There are real edges of sarcasm coming through now. When the crew say 'Good morning', we say 'Is it?'"

Many passengers attended a show given by the American ventriloquist Ron Lucas and his dragon puppet Scorch. "As Scorch breathed fire, lots of the passengers shouted that the ventriloquist should send him upstairs to do the welding, as it might get done more quickly," Ms Wesley said.

Behind the bravado lies a determination to win compensation from Cunard. Peter Ludlow, who is accompanying Ms Wesley on the trip, said that despite daily improvements, passengers felt every day was a fight.

"There's been lots of talking, but what we want is action from Cunard. I feel very bitter about it all," Mr Ludlow has taken a video film of what he considers to be safety hazards on board. "The deck is so dangerous. There are holes there and planks lying

around, and equipment all over the place. I don't want to, but I will use this against Cunard if I have to."

He added: "The crew are embarrassed and upset at what's going on and have said the publicity has been entirely justified."

Christine Hall, an American law professor who won her ticket in a draw, is representing about 50 QE2 passengers, many of whom have indicated that they will file lawsuits if Cunard does not respond to their demands. "Their requests are all different, but the bottom line is that they want the holiday they paid for. It's not a question of whether we'll get compensation, but how much," she said.

Eric Flounders, spokesman for Cunard, assured the Britons joining the ship in New York that their Christmas cruise would go ahead as planned. "It's been a bit of a struggle but we're on track. There will be no further offloads."



Arfur, the London Zoo lion under observation at a veterinary hospital where he is said to be very poorly

Arfur the lion sick with suspected cancer

ARFUR, the doyen of London Zoo's pride of lions, is thought to be suffering from a form of cancer and is under observation in an animal hospital (John Young writes). A zoo spokesman refused to comment yesterday on reports that he might be dying but said he was very poorly.

The five-year-old, 25 stone Asian lion,

who has twice mauled intruders, is believed to have contracted lymphoma, a disease that attacks the lymph cells. He was also in the spotlight this year when he was united with the five cubs he had fathered after mating with two of the zoo's lionesses, Rochi and Chandani. The cubs were the first of the species to be born in Britain since 1907. There are

only about 400 Asian lions left in the world.

On New Year's Eve last year Ben Silcock, a schizophrenic, was bitten in the chest and neck by Arfur after entering his enclosure. In September this year another disturbed man, Tony Saruni, climbed in. He was pinned by the throat but escaped with his life.

Sex abuse teacher allowed to go free

PARENTS protested at the Old Bailey yesterday when a primary school teacher who had admitted indecently assaulting six boys was allowed to walk free.

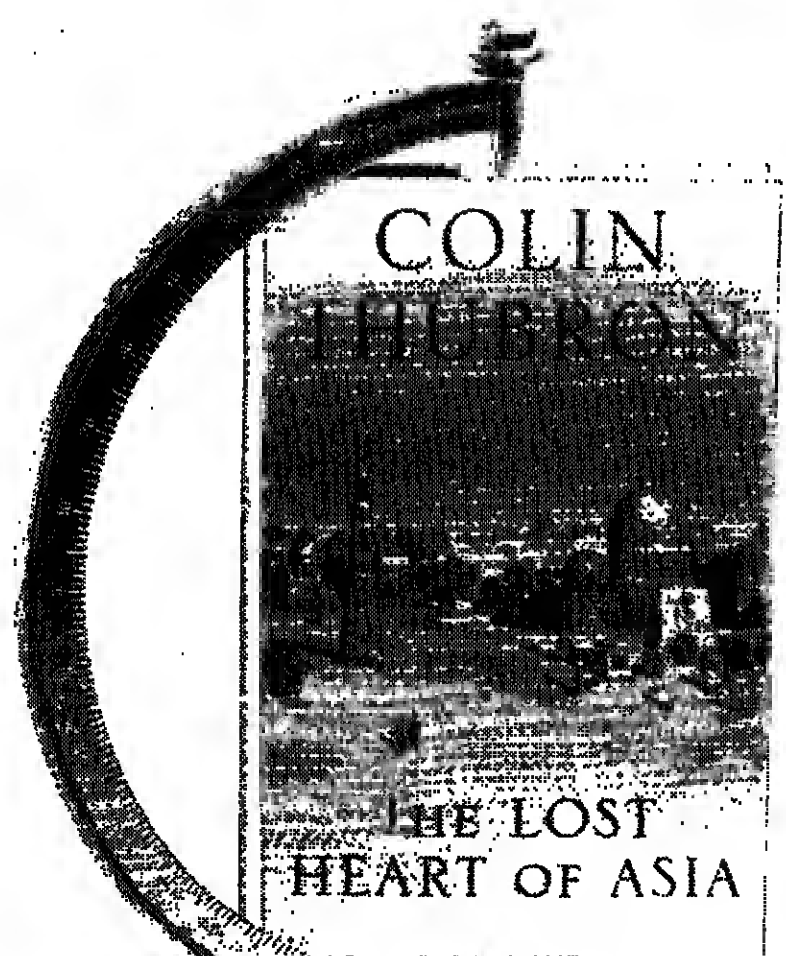
"It's a disgrace — he should have got six years," said one after Michael Moody, 29, was given a three-year probation order. Another said: "This isn't justice. Some of the children are still suffering."

Moody was suspended from his south London school after a five-year-old made allegations of indecency. He was eventually sacked but it was only after he had left that other boys came forward with allegations of abuse.

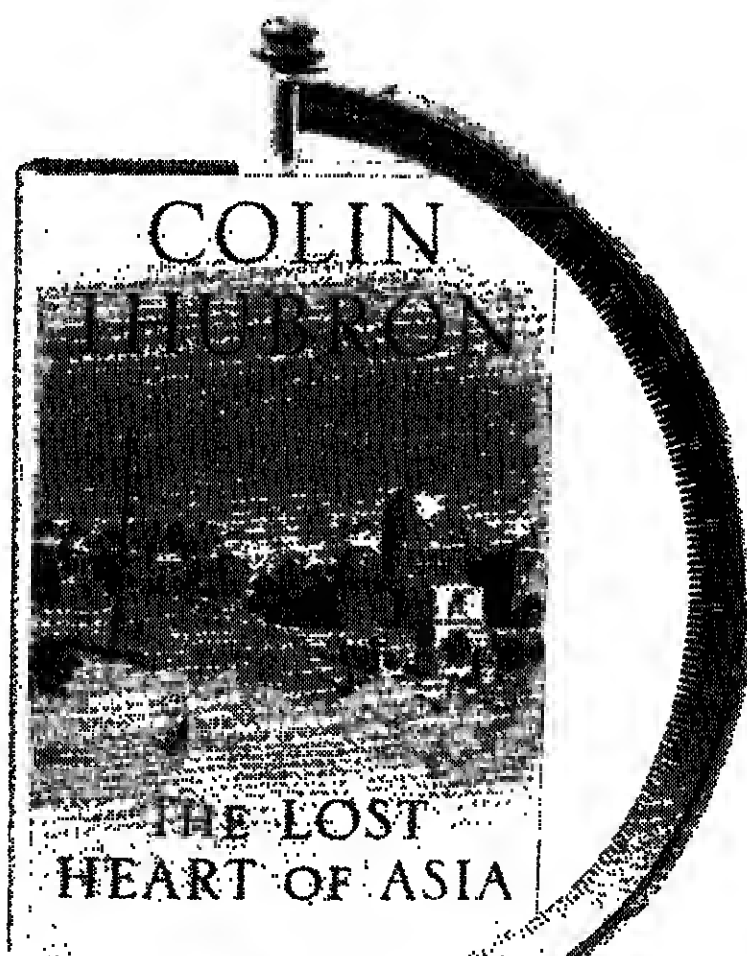
Stephen Waller, for the prosecution, said Moody had used various pretexts to touch boys indecently.

Judge Rogers said Moody was a changed man from three years ago. He was now working as a gardener living with a religious order in Liss, Hampshire, and having therapy.

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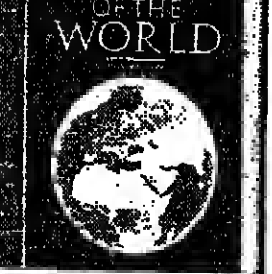
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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Contract 64 by South. Opening lead: 4A

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Instead of my usual refresher, I give this old chestnut suitable for the Christmas season. It is a double-dummy problem, by which is meant you can see all four hands. Can South make Six Clubs against the lead of the ace of spades?

The "try" as the chess problematisms put it is for South to ruff the spade with a high club. He then draws three rounds of trumps, cashes the ace-king of hearts and ace of diamonds, and leads the three of clubs to East's six. As East has only got spades and hearts left, he has to give dummy the lead. The declarer makes one spade trick, four heart tricks, one diamond trick and six club tricks.

For those of you who have

not already moved on to the wine page, East's counter to this manoeuvre is to play his eight-seven-six of clubs on the first three rounds of the suit. Then when South plays the three of clubs on the fourth round, East still has the two left and the declarer is stuck in hand and has to concede two diamond tricks to West. So the answer is: South cannot make Six Clubs against best defence.

Macallan Pairs

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, will be held at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, on January 25-27. For details and tickets contact the English Bridge Union, Broadfields, Blosser Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3BG, (tel 0296 394414).



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hastings preview

The international tournament at Hastings was founded in 1895 and is the world's longest running traditional tournament. Hastings is also Britain's premier chess competition.

This year's event runs from December 28 to January 8 and takes place at the Cinque Ports Hotel Peritonto.

The roll-call of those who have played at Hastings reads like a list of the world's greats. In 1895 Pillsbury won the first tournament, and in later years he was followed by Capablanca, Alekhine, Botvinnik, Tal, Spassky and Karpov.

In recent years top British players including Nigel Short and John Nunn have imposed their mark on the competition and captured first prize on several occasions, a sign of the increasing impact made by British Grandmasters on the world chess scene.

Britain is represented this year by top players, Grandmasters Dr John Nunn and Susan Lalic. Both are likely to produce fascinating games as the following samples demonstrate.

White: John Nunn
Black: Matthew Sadler
Lloyds Bank Masters, London 1993

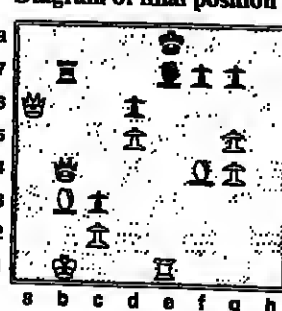
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d5
3 d4 Qxd4
4 Nbd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 a6
6 Be3 e5
7 Nb3 Be6
8 Bg3 Nbd7
9 g4 Be7
10 Qd2 b5
11 Bb1 Bxg3
12 Nd5 Bxg3
13 Qxg3 Qc7
14 g5 Nf5
15 Q-O-O Nf4
16 h4 h6

Pirc Defence

1 e4 g6
2 d4 Bg7
3 Nf3 d5
4 Be2 Nf6
5 Nc3 O-O
6 O-O e5
7 Re1 Qc7
8 Bf4 Nbd7
9 e5 Nf5
10 Bg5 dxe5
11 Bxe7 Re8
12 Qxg6 Qxg6
13 Bxf5 Qxf5
14 Qd3 Qf7
15 Bg6 Qf8
16 Bof Qf8
17 Rb1 Qf8
18 Rb8 Qf8
19 Rb3 Qf8

Diagram of final position



Grandmaster Susan Lalic is in fine form, having led the English Women's team to an outstanding sixth place in the Moscow Olympiad.

White: Susan Lalic
Black: Niaz Murshed
Lloyds Bank Masters, London 1989

Pirc Defence

1 e4 g6
2 d4 Bg7
3 Nf3 d5
4 Be2 Nf6
5 Nc3 O-O
6 O-O e5
7 Re1 Qc7
8 Bf4 Nbd7
9 e5 Nf5
10 Bg5 dxe5
11 Bxe7 Re8
12 Qxg6 Qxg6
13 Bxf5 Qxf5
14 Qd3 Qf7
15 Bg6 Qf8
16 Bof Qf8
17 Rb1 Qf8
18 Rb8 Qf8
19 Rb3 Qf8

Winning move, page 44

هكذا من الاصل

Ministers shelve unpopular new school diploma

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PLANS for a new school-leavers' qualification, hailed by ministers as a "passport to the world of work" seven months ago, were quietly shelved by the Government yesterday.

The proposed General Diploma was one of the centrepieces of the White Paper on competitiveness, published in May. The idea behind the modern version of the School Certificate was to assure employers that 16-year-olds had mastered the basics of English, mathematics, science and at least two other subjects.

However, consultation on the proposal drew little enthusiasm from education or industry, and officials encountered practical problems in assembling the necessary information.

The announcement of the diploma's demise was buried in a statement yesterday that named 118 schools which will pilot new vocational courses. Eric Forth, Education Minister, said: "We have reflected carefully on whether it is right to proceed with the introduction of the diploma from 1995 as originally planned, in the light of the views expressed."

"We have concluded that it is right for the time being to focus our efforts on securing standards in the core subjects of the national curriculum, on piloting the new General National Vocational Qualification and on securing better careers guidance for young people, as set out in the White Paper."

The examination boards had been expected to administer the diplomas, but the large number of schools using a variety of boards would have made such a system impossible, and added considerably to the bureaucracy and cost of the exercise.

It is the third time since 1991 that ministers have shelved plans for a diploma. Kenneth Clarke, as Education Secretary, published plans for diplomas at 16 and 18. But only the advanced qualification appeared in the Conservative Party's manifesto the following year, and plans for its introduction have never been pursued.

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, said: "The current confusion in the plethora of overlapping qualifications makes this decision inevitable. What we really need is a coherent forward plan of how to unify, rather than disaggregate, vocational and academic qualifications."

Teaching unions welcomed the decision. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "I am glad the Government has listened. For once, consultation appears to have been genuine."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said serious problems remained with the new vocational courses apart from the diploma. The union, which led the original boycott of national curriculum testing, would issue "strong advice" to members on the "excessive workload which accompanies much of the coursework assessment requirements".

Student loan boss steps down as complaints rise

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE chief executive of the state-owned Student Loans Company has stepped down because of ill-health amid claims that managerial incompetence has left thousands of students penniless.

Student Loans said yesterday that Ron Harrison, who was taken seriously ill last month, was recuperating and had not resigned. A temporary replacement has been appointed.

About 35,000 students will be left without loans over Christmas after the botched introduction this summer of a streamlined system for repeat applications. Forms were sent to students' old addresses and the company was overwhelmed by last-minute applications from those who had lost or failed to receive them.

Although the company recruited extra staff, student leaders claimed that thousands could not make contact because telephone lines were constantly engaged. Tim Boswell, the Higher Education Minister, criticised the company last week for "unacceptable delays".

Bryan Davies, Labour's higher education spokesman, said: "If it had been pensioners who had been waiting weeks for their pension the nation would have been in uproar, but because it was students, people tolerated it."

The Glasgow-based company, which has been dogged by controversy since it was established four years ago, is the subject of a inquiry by the accountants Coopers & Lybrand for the Education Department after allegations of financial irregularities by former members of staff.

The National Audit Office launched an investigation in the summer into separate allegations surrounding the award of a computer contract and claims that in two months in 1992 Mr Harrison spent £350 on whisky for the boardroom on top of a petty cash whisky bill of £252.

The Times disclosed last month that half of all graduates who have taken out a student loan are too poor to make repayments or are failing to settle their debts. So far, more than £751 million has been lent to students and, only £19.8 million repaid.



Oak Farm, where Mrs Raines's body was found by her son as he returned from working in the fields

Wealthy widow stabbed to death for contents of her handbag

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WEALTHY widow found murdered was probably killed for the contents of her handbag. Adelaide Ruth Raines, 73, was discovered by her son stumped on the floor of the family farmhouse as he came in from work in the fields on Tuesday night.

Mrs Raines had died from multiple knife wounds. Detectives last night appealed for help from anyone who saw anything strange at her home at Oak Farm in Broughton, North Yorkshire.

A spokesman for North Yorkshire Police said: "It appears that she answered her door to a stranger and that she was stabbed to death. We have discovered that Mrs Raines's handbag is missing."

Detectives said that nothing else was missing from the property and it was not known if Mrs Raines's handbag contained a large amount of cash or valuables.

Guy Raines, 38, found his mother's body in a pool of blood in a ground floor room as he arrived home for his evening meal. He had taken over the running of the 500-acre farm after his father died six years ago.

The killing shocked villagers who said Mrs Raines was well liked and highly respected. She kept herself to herself but would pass the time of day with other locals as she walked her dogs, a golden retriever and a pair of collies.

Janet Preston, a neighbour, said: "They are a well-off family, at one time they owned almost all the village land. Over the years they sold off parcels for building but still controlled a sizeable slice of land."

Oak Farm is a Georgian stone-built four-bedroomed property, standing at the edge



Ruth Raines: well liked in the village

known to us, was an active woman and well known in local village circles."

Mr Harrison had last seen his sister on Monday in the nearby town of Malton at the funeral of her late husband's cousin. He said that she had seemed to be perfectly all right.

"My sister must have been killed by some stranger who knew she was alone in the house. Guy was occupied doing hard work on the farm most of the time. Her death is a tragedy. She was active and young-looking for her age and was very forthright and determined."

Thirty task-force policemen are involved in the inquiry into Mrs Raines's murder. Several of the officers carried out a finger-clip search of the farmhouse and surrounding land, while others talked to people in the village. They hope that someone will have noticed the killer leaving the farm as he could well have been heavily bloodstained. Police have not recovered the knife used in the attack.



A sperm enters the egg at journey's end

Struggling sperm's clue to infertility

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SPERM are such poor swimmers that they need to "surf" along waves created by muscle contractions in the womb. Canadian researchers have found. The absence of such contractions in the muscle layers lining the womb could explain many cases of infertility.

"Sperm are not salmon. They don't swim unaided upstream," Dr Edward Lyons, of the University of Manitoba Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, told New Scientist. "They need these waves to ride on to get to the egg."

He and Dr Clifford Levi used ultrasound to measure the contractions in women seeking treatment for infertility and compared them with a similar number of fertile women. Although the contractions are imperceptible to women, the measurements showed that they occur at a rate of about three a minute, about 80 per cent of the time in an upwards direction towards the Fallopian tubes. In infertile women the waves were weak, infrequent or moved downwards.

The contractions seem to be at their best in the middle of the menstrual cycle, when women are ovulating, and are also encouraged by prostaglandins, natural products found in seminal fluid that trigger muscle contraction.

Dr Lyons said that women who have difficulty conceiving with no obvious cause may have abnormalities in the direction, frequency or intensity of the contractions. Their best chance is to pick the time of ovulation when the waves are likely to be at their most helpful.

£14,000 damages for woman sacked over daughter's 'memories' of abuse

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SOCIAL worker sacked by a children's charity after her daughter accused her of sexual abuse was yesterday awarded the maximum compensation of £14,000 by an industrial tribunal.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, told the tribunal that her daughter was a victim of the controversial psychological technique that invites people to "remember" being abused as children.

Opponents of the technique, developed in the United States, have named it "false memory syndrome". They claim that people are persuaded to believe things happened to them when they did not.

Five hundred cases have been brought to the attention of the British False Memory Society since it was set up 18 months ago. Roger Scotford, director of the society, said that in every case the alleged victims had been urged to sever all links with their families in an effort to "heal" themselves.

The industrial tribunal at Newcastle upon Tyne was told that the daughter made her claims of abuse between the ages of six and 11 shortly after being referred to a psychologist for treatment for depression. Her mother was suspended from her job with Barnardo's and was dismissed although she was never questioned by police about the allegations.

The woman, who is married with two other children, lives in from Newcastle upon Tyne. She said: "The last time I saw my daughter was when she went on holiday two years ago. The next day I went to work and was suspended. The whole thing was a bolt out of the blue."

"My daughter had planned the holiday to get away from me after telling my superiors



Ramona: father awarded \$500,000 over sex claims

she had been abused as a youngster."

She said the allegations had destroyed her life. "I can't believe I was sacked on the basis of wholly unacceptable information. Employers and especially therapists should have proper guidelines so

cases like this do not happen again."

Mr Scotford said: "All the families who contact us have a similar story. A germ of an idea is put into a person's head by the therapist. He tells them that they have been abused as children but forgot all about what happened because one day their memory chose to blot it out for good."

"Before long these people are having false memories and really do believe they have been abused when they haven't. It is akin to brainwashing."

In May, an American man won \$500,000 damages after accusing therapists of planting thoughts of abuse in his daughter's mind. Gary Ramona's marriage broke up and he lost his highly paid job after Holly, 23, "recovered" memories of incest during treatment for an eating disorder.

Barnardo's refused to comment on the tribunal decision but is expected to appeal.

At just £1.4m, golden egg is a gift

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE stocking need only be small. A petite ladies' size two would be perfectly adequate. The wallet, however, will have to be bulging to cope with the ultimate Christmas stocking filler of 1994.

Aspreys of Bond Street have it, and will part with it for a mere £1,400,000. It is an egg, of a size that your average hen would class as a jumbo, hand-spun from 18-carat white gold, and its surface covered in 220.21 carats of square princess-cut diamonds. The ne plus ultra of baubles does have a use, of sorts: inside is a pair of diamond-drop earrings. Aspreys said yesterday it had not yet sold its sole example.

All the best stocking fillers have the virtue of being fun, gimmicky but fundamentally unnecessary. Harrods offer a battery-operated card shuffler at the more reasonable price of £14.95, or a teddy bear which plays Elvis Presley's song of the same name at the press of a button for £29.95.

The store's life-size cuddly dromedary at £1,950 would not fit into even the largest stocking, but their £41 toilet brush in the shape of a cactus would. The donor of the latter, however, might stand accused of a certain lack of romance. Stocking fillers properly belong in the under-a-tenner category, a market for which even Harrods caters. A pair of self-tying slippers, perhaps, at £3.99, or a plastic

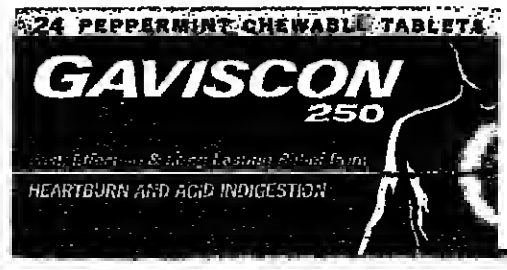
Christmas 1994: top selling videos

1 Jurassic Park
2 Mrs Doubtfire
3 Snow White
4 Free Willy
5 Aladdin
6 From The Bushes — Jethro
7 Gone With The Wind
8 Take That Live In Berlin
9 Billy Connolly Live '94
10 Muppets' Christmas Carol
11 Berni
12 Homeward Bound

Top selling confectionery at Woolworths

1 Cadburys Dairy Milk (1kg bar)
2 Galaxy Twin (150gm)
3 Cadburys Roses (1.8kg tin)
4 Ferrero Rocher (250gm pack)
5 Cadburys Roses (1kg)
6 Cadburys Roses (750gm hamper)
7 Ferrero Rocher (tray of 24)
8 Quality Street (1lb)
9 Galaxy (500gm bar)
10 Cadburys Dairy Milk (200gm bar)

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Air strikes across Europe threaten Christmas breaks

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

HUNDREDS of thousands of travellers to Spain could have their holiday plans ruined by a pilots' strike over the Christmas holiday. Travellers to Greece and France may also face long delays because of strikes threatened by airline and ground-handling staff.

Although Britain's airports are predicting record business this winter and travel agents have almost sold out of Christmas overseas packages, a dispute between pilots and fliers, the state-owned Spanish airline, is threatening to turn into an all-out stoppage. The action is due to run from December 28 to January 12. The dispute over pay could also cause disruption to passengers to Spain on airlines other than Iberia and its associated airlines Viva Air and Avio.

Unions representing ground crews and pilots from the French domestic airline

TOP RESORTS

The ten best-selling Christmas destinations for British holidaymakers are:

- 1 Tenerife
- 2 Gran Canaria
- 3 Cyprus
- 4 Lanzarote
- 5 Costa del Sol
- 6 Fuerteventura
- 7 Costa Blanca
- 8 Majorca
- 9 Malta
- 10 Caribbean

Air Inter are threatening stoppages over the holiday period, although a spokesman for the state-owned airline said he could not say how services would be affected. Internal flights in France will be involved but flights into the country on other airlines will not be affected.

Ground staff at Greek airports will hold two 48-hour

strikes on December 23, 24, 30 and 31, unions said yesterday. The strike will affect 70 per cent of flights in and out of Athens. Elsewhere, the Christmas period is turning into a season of bumper sales with Eurostar putting on extra trains to cope with demand to Paris.

Nearly 1,400,000 passengers will pass through Heathrow and Gatwick airports in the five days leading up to Christmas Eve — an increase of 11 per cent on last year. By January 3, Heathrow expects to have handled 1.7 million travellers. At Gatwick, staff said tomorrow and January 2 would be their busiest days, and airport authorities are asking passengers not to wrap up Christmas presents to speed security checks.

The travel agent Lunn Poly said that all its Christmas holidays had sold out, while Thomas Cook said sales were between 10 and 12 per cent up on last year. The holiday price war took to the seas yesterday as ferry companies prepared to cut fares as part of a January offensive against Le Shuttle.

A spokeswoman for the Automobile Association said the Christmas rush on the roads would begin tomorrow lunchtime and predicted delays on the M5 and M6 at junction 4, the M1 at junction 34, the M4 westbound at Newport and routes out of London.

Blizzards have arrived in the Scottish Highlands, where more than 5,000 people are booked to stay at the ski resort of Aviemore over Christmas. Weather forecasters say, however, that a white Christmas is highly unlikely. The forecast for Christmas Day is rain in the North and sunny intervals in the South, with higher than average temperatures everywhere. Sleet and fog are forecast for the next few days.

Although Alpine ski resorts are celebrating the arrival of snow, in Sydney temperatures hit 44C — the hottest December day in 37 years. Railway lines buckled and scores of pedestrians collapsed in the heat.

Forecast, page 22



Alec Guinness, Maureen O'Hara and the whisky miniatures in Carol Reed's *Our Man in Havana*

Our man in Havana's whiskies find London restaurant home

By JOHN SHAW

EIGHTY-TWO miniature bottles of whisky that belonged to the late Graham Greene became a memorial to him yesterday. The collection featured in his novel *Our Man in Havana* and in the 1959 film of the book.

The bottles are central to an episode in which the hero, a vacuum-cleaner salesman recruited into the Secret Service, uses them as counters in a game of draughts with the secret police chief. The loser has to drink the miniatures and when the policeman passes out drunk, our man in Havana, played by Alec Guinness, steals his pistol.

The collection was bought for £3,520, against an estimate of £1,500-£2,000, at Christie's South Kensington by Rules Restaurant of Covent Garden. The author and his brother, Sir Hugh Carleton Greene, former Director-General of the BBC, were regular customers of Rules and their



Benny Hill, a comedian who loved dressing up

table on the first floor is now part of the Graham Greene room.

Hugh Latimer, of the restaurant, said: "The bottles, the novel and two stills from the film will now have pride of place there for the future. Graham Greene had his birthday lunch here for 30 or 40 years."

"It was a tradition. He had his own table, table 11, and he would fly over specially for

for 528. The black and white checked suit, with a yellow bowler hat, red nose and sequined pink bow tie, will go into Mr Parker's comedy collection.

He said: "I have admired Benny Hill since I can remember. I thought he was the greatest comic genius this country ever produced."

"I particularly wanted this outfit because I loved the sketch it was used in. The clown sketch was one of his finest. He was a born clown," Mr Parker added. "I won't be wearing the outfit and I won't be using it in my own act."

Benny Hill's Scout outfit went for £715 and his baggy schoolboy's uniform for £528. The outfits were put into the auction by Mary Hillman, 52, of Twickenham, southwest London, a former television make-up artist. She acquired them last year among a collection of about 50 costumes which she bought for £500 from Thames Television, her former employer.

Sex attack prisoner given 12 years

A sex offender who kidnapped and indecently assaulted a woman, after absconding while on prison leave was jailed for 12 years yesterday. Ian White's victim, a mother-of-four aged 33, fled naked after he drove her in her own car to an isolated road and attacked her.

White, who had been allowed leave prior to completing a three-year sentence for assaulting a baby, admitted the charges at Exeter Crown Court. In 1986 he was jailed for trying to rape a schoolgirl.

Heliport setback

A High Court judge blocked a plan for a floating heliport that would travel up and down the Thames handling up to 22,000 flights a year. The 1,000-ton vessel would have operated from 22 sites between Battersea and the Thames Barrier.

Flood handouts

The European Union has given £400,000 to victims of the Strathclyde floods in which three people died. Social workers have started to deliver Giro cheques to those flooded out. Single people will receive £100 and families up to £250.

Baby killer

A man who drowned his daughter in a bowl of water moments after his 15-year-old girlfriend gave birth was jailed for life by Maidstone Crown Court. Adam Hughes, 33, also known as Tex Vandervort, who denied murder, buried the body in a field.

Hitchhike ordeal

A man who sexually assaulted and tried to strangle a hitchhiker in a field is being hunted by police. The 30-year-old woman, who had accepted a lift at Camberley, Surrey, is recovering in hospital after the two-hour attack.

Boy's killer jailed

A drunken joyrider who orphaned a boy aged four when he crashed into his family's car was jailed at Cardiff for eight years. Michael Quinn, 19, of Blaenwylf, West Glamorgan, admitted causing death by dangerous driving.

Train crashes

A woman in her 80s and a child were injured yesterday when a minibus in which they were travelling was hit by a train on an unmanned level crossing at Brampton, Suffolk. None of the people on the train was hurt.

Road fright

Tiny reflectors which look like the eyes of predatory wolves have been installed along roads on Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, by scientists testing whether they will frighten deer away from heavy traffic.

Fish takeaway

Thieves broke into the Sea Life Centre in Weymouth, Dorset, and stole all the edible fish on display including bass, cod and rays. More hostile specimens such as conger eels and jellyfish were untouched.

Pines scented

Durham Council has sprayed its evergreens with sewage to deter thieves who steal them at Christmas. A spokesman said: "Anyone silly enough to put one in his warm home will end up with a smelly Christmas."

Oh yes they will!

Four pantomime competition judges in Cornwall will watch 48 amateur productions this Christmas, including six *Dick Whittingtons*, and a performance of *The Birthday Princess* on the Isles of Scilly.

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When war begins, water is more deadly than guns

By JOHN YOUNG

MORE people are killed in localised wars by contaminated water than by bullets. With that claim the British Red Cross has launched a campaign against what it calls the abuse of water in conflicts.

In many parts of the world water shortages are an endemic problem, even in peacetime. A resolution passed at the United Nations environment conference in Vancouver in 1976 that everyone should have clean, safe water by the end of the century has proved to be empty rhetoric.

When fighting erupts the risks of disease are hugely multiplied. One of the most horrific aspects of the continuing slaughter in Rwanda has been the epidemic of cholera. The deliberate shelling of water supplies has had devastating effects in Afghanistan, Iraq and Bosnia. Not only are people put at risk from diseases such as cholera, typhoid, hepatitis and dysentery, but they often have to brave sniper and shell fire to collect supplies from standpipes. There is a more insidious long-term threat: neither agriculture nor industry can function without water.

The International Committee of the Red Cross recently organised a conference in Montreux, Switzerland, for relief and medical experts

which agreed on the need for urgent action to standardise water and sanitation equipment used by aid agencies and to recruit and train more water engineers and public health experts.

It also emphasised the need for greater awareness of the vital importance of water supplies, particularly among the military responsible for protecting them. It pointed out that a healthy person could survive up to a month without food but for only three days without water and that the biggest risk was to children.

At a practical level, in

Bosnia the British Red Cross has begun to repair the main pipeline supplying Sarajevo, to restore water supplies in Mostar, to construct a new supply system in Derвента and to build a new dam in Srebrenica. Geoffrey Dennis, the international director of the British Red Cross, said: "This has been a highly successful project for us, and we are now looking to carry out similar projects in Kupres and Gorazde. Funding programmes such as these are crucial in ensuring that the victims of the conflict have the basic requirement to live."

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Farmer shot dog's unwanted suitor

A FARMER blasted his neighbour's dog with a shotgun because it had mated with his prized spaniel while the bitch was carrying a litter of valuable pure-bred puppies.

Robert Hayball had complained about Ian Gillingham's collie, which was regarded as a menace by other dog owners and had been roaming on his land. Bridport magistrates were told yesterday.

When he learnt what the collie had done he killed it with shots from both barrels on the lawn of his home in Broadwindsor, Dorset. He reloaded his gun and fired again.

Hayball buried the corpse but telephoned Mr Gillingham a couple of days

later and confessed. He was arrested and his shotgun and licence were seized.

Yesterday he admitted causing criminal damage, but after reading letters of support from other landowners the magistrates granted him a one-year conditional discharge and ordered him to pay £40 costs.

John Puddicombe, representing Hayball, told the court that the spaniel was expecting up to eight pups worth £700 to £800 each. The farmer feared for their wellbeing after the spaniel had been lured away by the collie.

The collie had a reputation for roaming the area and mating with any available bitch. When Hayball saw the dog on his

lawn he thought the best thing was to dispatch it there and then. "He felt there was very little option left open to him."

Mr Puddicombe produced letters from residents who had complained about the collie, including a retired magistrate and a brigadier. He said that Hayball, leader of Marshwood Vale Young Farmers' Club, had experienced trouble with the collie twice before. When his spaniel was on heat the dog had stayed outside his house, howling throughout the night and scratching on the door.

The court was told that any claim for compensation for the dead collie would have to be made by Mr Gillingham through the civil courts.

Thousands flee as Russians pound Chechen capital

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN GROZNY

A HUMANITARIAN tragedy was unfolding in the break-away republic of Chechnya yesterday as thousands of refugees fled continued fighting around the capital Grozny, where the civilian death toll continues to mount.

Conditions for those remaining in the snowbound city worsened last night when a power cut caused a blackout. Although the immediate cause of the cut was not clear, Russian planes have been trying to hit a nearby electricity generating station and carried out another air raid in that vicinity yesterday evening.

The power cut hit both of Grozny's main hospitals. The doctor at the First Republican Hospital said: "If this goes on, soon it will be impossible for us to work at all."

"We cannot operate without electricity and without heating our badly wounded patients will die of exposure. You cannot light wood fires in a hospital."

The Chechens have claimed that 135 civilians have been killed as the fighting has reached the outskirts of the city. The Russians said 11

soldiers were killed overnight when a reconnaissance unit was ambushed.

Most houses in Grozny are by now bitterly cold, with people huddling around the gas stoves in their kitchens to keep warm. Russian troops now control the main gas refinery northwest of the city, although supplies are not yet exhausted.

With Russian planes continuing their intermittent bombardment of targets near the city, many spent their third night in damp and freezing cellars. At the inaccurately named French Hotel, where many Western correspondents are staying, a crowd of Chechen and Russian women poured in after one explosion, weeping and demanding that they tell the world what is happening.

"Russian television says that all civilians have left Grozny," Lydia Mukashenko, a Russian woman, screamed. "Why don't you tell them that we are still here. Maybe then they would stop killing us."

A steady stream of civilian casualties is coming into the hospitals, though it is difficult to judge the exact figures

because many of the lightly wounded are sent on immediately to clinics in the countryside. At the main children's hospital we spoke to Fatma Selimkhanov. She was sitting in the dark at the bedside of her three children, who were badly wounded in a rocket attack in the frontline village of Artymovskoye on Tuesday.

Mrs Selimkhanov had already fled from the heavily bombed village of Pervomayskoye, and was staying with friends, five of whose seven children were killed. The recently rebuilt children's hospital was dark and rapidly growing cold.

Russian assurances made yesterday by Andrei Kozirev, the Foreign Minister, that the army is making progress and has succeeded in isolating the Chechen fighters was not confirmed by an inspection of the main front line eight miles from Grozny.

Compared to the civilian casualties, military casualties among the Chechens have so far been extraordinarily slight. This is a reflection of the fact that much of the "fighting" so far has consisted of long-range bombardment, which has not been nearly as heavy as reported by much of the media, and that the small, elusive groups of Chechen fighters are very hard to hit.

During the day the Russians have the advantage but at night the Chechens creep up towards the Russian tanks and attack them with rocket propelled grenades. Walid Taisurov, a Chechen fighter, claimed near Petrovskoye. He said that the Chechens are following General Dzhokhar Dudayev's orders to "hit and pull back".

According to Mr Taisurov and other Chechen fighters, the Russian soldiers are unwilling to leave the protection of their armour and attack on foot. "In three days of fighting for Petrovskoye, I have not once seen Russian infantry in the open," he said.

The morale of the Russian conscripts is probably being sapped by the extreme weather conditions, and even some Chechen women have expressed sympathy for the "poor, stupid Russian kids" out in the open.

At Dolinskoye at the other end of the Chechen defensive line, Hassan Maiev, the local commander, had his own explanation for the Russian failure to advance: "Their hearts are not in it because they don't want to be here and they know that their Government is wrong. We are fighting with our whole hearts because we belong here and we are fighting to defend our homes."



President Mandela hugs his estranged wife, Winnie, after she won a seat on the ANC's national executive committee

ANC re-elects Winnie Mandela

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN BLOEMFONTEIN

WINNIE MANDELA, the estranged wife of South Africa's President, completed her rehabilitation in the eyes of black voters yesterday when she was re-elected to the national executive committee of the African National Congress (ANC).

At the 49th national conference in Bloemfontein, where the first ANC conference took place in 1912, Mrs Mandela gathered more votes than any other woman in the party — 1,802 — to end fifth among the 60 members elected to the executive. The body will be the highest authority in the party until the next national conference in two and a half years.

As she was welcomed to the dais when the result was announced, she was swept into a vast, almost passionate embrace by her husband, who has written in his autobiography that he believes her innocent of any wrongdoing.

Mrs Mandela led delegates in singing a freedom song. Dressed in party colours of green and gold, she swayed and clapped in time to the music, glancing often towards her husband. She was one of a number of militants elected to the committee. They included her close ally, Peter Mokaba, whom she defended recently when he was accused of being a police spy. He was once leader of the ANC Youth League.

The rest of the new committee proved a mixture mainly of the old hard Left, Communists, Robben Island veterans, and moderates. The hard Left included Pello Jordani, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, an intellectual Marxist, Joe Slovo, of the South African Communist Party, was also elected.

The trade union movement did not do as well as it might have expected, with a number of prominent names failing to make it on to the list. Chris Dlamini, for example, the deputy president of Cosatu, failed to gather enough votes.

Another casualty was Chris Ntsheni, newly elected leader of the Western Cape Party. That province of the ANC is racked by dissension and scandal, and is opposed by the only National Party administration in the country. It is paying the price of electoral failure.

The question of corruption and inefficiency was raised by President Mandela in his closing speech. He said: "A parasite class within the African National Congress has emerged." He urged regional parties to raise their own funds instead of depending on national headquarters.

One of the most surprising results of the election to the committee was the performance of Major-General Bantubonke Holomisa, the former military dictator of the Transkei homeland. He overthrew a democratically elected Government and ended up leading one of the least efficient administrations in Africa. He is Deputy Minister of the Environment, and came top of the NEC list with 1,915 votes. Amid cheers, he said: "I will not overthrow this Government."

The conference ended with a rousing send-off from its President, who insisted that the party had come out of the meeting strengthened, unified and prepared for its next test, local government elections planned for October.

Mr Mandela said that it was unrealistic to have expected "within a period of seven months a Government of men and women, who are now in Government for the first time", to have satisfied the immediate expectations of the mass of the people.

Cyril Ramaphosa, re-elected as Secretary-General, said at the conference that "there was not a single word of disgruntlement, dissent or dissatisfaction with the way the Government has been performing".

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Pele joins Brazil Cabinet

Brasilia: President-elect Fernando Cardoso yesterday announced a Cabinet team which included Pele, the soccer star.

Senhor Cardoso, due to take office on January 1, named close allies to the two main posts. Pedro Malan, the central bank president is to be Finance Minister, and Luiz Felipe Lampreia, a career diplomat, will be Foreign Minister.

Pele, whose real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, has been appointed the Special Minister for Sports. (APF)

38 killed in clash at dam

Manila: At least 16 Philippine soldiers and 22 Muslim guerrillas have been killed in a three-day battle over disputed land rights at the site of an irrigation dam in Cotabato province on Mindanao island (Abby Tan writes).

The rebels say they have not been compensated for land expropriated by the Government to build the \$34-million Japanese-funded dam. Sporadic fighting has continued since October, when rebels kidnapped a South Korean engineer working on the project.

Rare disease ruled out

Cape Town: Congo fever, a highly infectious haemorrhagic disease, has been ruled out as the cause of death of Andrew Fairclough, 28, from Hertfordshire, who died in a Cape Town hotel after exhibiting symptoms of the disease.

Tests are being carried out to find out what killed him. Fear of a Congo fever outbreak caused many cancellations at the hotel. (APF)

Two jailed in heroin trial

Sydney: Che Busarah Bin Che Yook, 36, a Malaysian, was jailed for up to 26 years for importing 12lb of heroin, worth an estimated \$55 million, the largest single shipment ever seized in Australia.

His accomplice, Wanchai Sae-Sung, 33, a Thai, was sentenced to a maximum of 16 years in prison. (AP)

Credit cards curtailed

Seoul: South Korea, fearing that heavy spending by young people is contributing to inflation, is to stop students, people under 20 and workers with less than a year on the job from receiving credit cards, officials said. (AP)

Yeltsin 'will not repeat' Stalinist expulsions

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday pledged that refugees who had fled Chechnya would be allowed back.

The Russian Federal Migration Service estimated that 60,000 refugees have moved out. "Under no circumstances will the deportation of Chechen people repeat itself," said the Russian leader, aware that the risks being compared with Stalin, who exiled the entire Chechen population to Central Asia in 1944, with the loss of tens of thousands of men, women and children who died en route.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that at least 16,000 people had fled their homes because of the fighting, and said the number of displaced people could rise.

The agency said a shipment of 4,000 blankets and 1,500 food parcels was on its way to the town of Khasavyurt, east of the regional capital Grozny, where about 8,000 displaced people had gathered.

In Moscow, the Russian Government accused mercenaries from Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Ukraine of "extreme cruelty" and "bloody atrocities" in Chechnya. It

warned them that their actions in support of Chechen fighters "may complicate relations between Russia and the countries where the mercenaries continue to arrive from".

A day after Russia closed its borders with Georgia and Azerbaijan to contain the conflict, Moscow's Ostankino television said border guards had turned away at least 6,000 people from those countries — many of them armed mercenaries — who had sought to enter Chechnya.

Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader, last night repeated a call for international pressure on Moscow to halt its offensive. "We call on the world community, the United Nations and other international organisations to use all their political influence to put pressure on Russia to prevent the conflict escalating," the general said.

Calling on Islamic countries to shelter Chechens fleeing the fighting, he added: "It is not too late to stop the bloodshed. Responsibility for the perfidious aggression against the Chechen people and its consequences is entirely down to the political and military leadership of Russia."

Britain escapes lightly as EU cracks down on farm fraud

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

IN ITS most aggressive clampdown on farm fraud, the European Commission yesterday imposed record fines of £1.2 billion on EU member states.

The fines, for failing to monitor abuses of EU farm spending, amount to 5 per cent of the agriculture budget. While this represents only the tip of the EU fraud iceberg, it signals the Commission's determination to react to increased public demand for tougher action on agricultural budget abuses.

Britain came off more lightly than most EU members, with a fine of only £2.5 million, largely for accountancy errors. Italy, Spain, Germany and Greece were found guilty of the most flagrant abuses and suffered substantial penalties.

After sending a team of auditors to all member states, the Commission "found deficiencies in procedures which

laid the Community budget open to fraud or irregularity in the 1991 accounts. Under EU law, the Commission is entitled to recover the funds, which were lost through fraud and abuse due to insufficient control mechanisms. Technically, the recovery will occur through cuts in future agricultural subsidies.

The Commission said that "instead of the Community paying for the irregularities, it is the member state's national budget which must pay the cost. These charges, which for the 1991 clearance total 5 per cent of expenditure, can be a substantial shock."

About £800 million will be recovered from Italy and Spain for their failure to stick to EU milk quotas. Italy will be subjected to a £600-million fine, which includes a long list of misdemeanours, ranging from a breach of milk quotas to irregularities in cheese storage. Greece failed to imple-

ment proper tobacco controls and was fined £25 million in compensation payments for tobacco of unacceptably low quality that was dumped on third country markets.

The bulk of Germany's fines came from unauthorised export subsidies for beef and for exceeding its milk quotas.

The Commission noted yesterday that "unlike in most areas of Community operations when a member state does not comply with EEC directives, the Commission does have a certain amount of power to oblige them to respect legislation in the agricultural sector."

The size of this year's fines were boosted by Italy's and Spain's failure to meet their milk quotas. A long-standing row over the fine was settled by Finance Ministers last month.

Typically, the agricultural fines run at about £200 million a year.



Muscovites puzzle over the first parking meters to be installed in Russia. The 200 meters were introduced yesterday on a six-month trial to stop double-parking and bring in revenue. Motorists who neglect to pay the 50 pence an hour rate will have their cars clamped after ten minutes

Moscow shops ordered to light up for Christmas

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW'S shopkeepers who have been thinking of giving the season's celebrations a miss have been warned to think again by the city's tough municipality.

In a directive that may be lacking in Christmas spirit but effective in weeding out the city's potential scrooges, Moscow has ordered every store to illuminate shop fronts or face being fined.

"It is quite simple, every shop has to put up lights and

decorations and enter the Christmas spirit," said an official at the city's department of consumer affairs yesterday. "If not they will be sorry. We will fine them." The move was ordered by Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's no-nonsense mayor, who is so obsessive about smartening up his sprawling metropolis that he resorted to expelling aliens to keep the homeless off the streets and has used work gangs to keep the city tidy.

The order issued this week seems to have worked. On

every main street in the city shops have gone to extraordinary lengths to brighten up their display windows with festive scenes not witnessed in Russia since the Revolution, when Christmas was banned as an official holiday and replaced by the atheist New Year celebration.

Nevertheless, not all Muscovites were impressed with the order, which came only days ahead of the Russian Orthodox Christmas, celebrated on January 6. "I would not have minded if they had asked us politely to

do our bit," said Marina Nazarenko, who is helping to decorate displays at the Danilovsky department store. "But to issue this order so late is not very helpful."

The English language Moscow Times said that the city's mayor may not quite have understood the point of a Western-style Christmas, and wondered whether the next step would be to put Santa's sleigh over Lenin's mausoleum.

"Doubtless Luzhkov means well," the newspaper said in an editorial. "But

there is nonetheless something disconcerting about introducing coercion into festivities. Perhaps a lifetime of choreographed May Days and Great October Revolution anniversary parades has left a mark too deeply ingrained to be wiped away."

The decision of Moscow's municipality may not be in the spirit of the festival celebrating the birth of Jesus, but somebody else would certainly have approved of the methods used. Yesterday was the 115th anniversary of Stalin's birth.

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Carter's 'private' peace mission masks Clinton policy switch in Bosnia

BY MISHA GLENNY

The agreement brokered by Jimmy Carter, the former US President, between the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs is looking confused and messy already. It is not, however, without its merits.

Above all the four-month ceasefire, which could come into effect by the end of the month, will give all sides in the war a break as winter sets in.

But Mr Carter has played an additional role in Bosnia: he has offered cover to the White House, which has been coy about the dramatic switch in its approach to the Bosnian crisis since fighting flared around Bihac last month. At the time, Anthony Lake, President

Clinton's National Security Adviser and one of the Administration's most fervent supporters of the Bosnian Government, wrote in a memo to the President that "Bihac's fall has exposed the inherent contradictions of trying to use Nato air power coercively against the Bosnian Serbs when our allies have troops on the ground attempting to maintain impartiality in performing a humanitarian mission." He concluded that "the stick of military pressure seems no longer viable".

Since then the Administration's policy has moved ever closer to that of Britain, France, Germany and Russia. Mr Carter's visit has been consistently advertised as "private". But European diplomats suspect there has been too much

protesting. "We believe the Carter trip was proposed by Charles Redman, not by Karadzic," one diplomat said, referring to talks between the Bosnian Serbs and President Clinton's former envoy to Yugoslavia several weeks ago.

The former President was offered extensive briefing by the State Department and during the marathon negotiations with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader on Monday, Mr Carter was in close telephone contact with Washington for most of the day.

But it is the substance of the agreement that has confirmed to the European members of the Contact Group that the Carter initiative was less than private. "The agreement implies that all sorts of things about the Contact

Group peace plan are still up for discussion. Until now the Americans have been loathe to admit this," the diplomat said. "But by supporting Carter, they appear to have changed position again."

The Carter visit should not be viewed in isolation. Yesterday the combined efforts of the United Nations, European Union, America and Russia, succeeded in reopening the *autoput*, Croatia's main artery from Zagreb to the east, three years after it was sliced at two points by rebel Serbs.

Formerly known as the Highway of Brotherhood and Unity, symbolising Tito's post-war reconciliation of Serbs and Croats, yesterday's opening is part of a wider economic agreement between Zagreb and Knin, the Cro-

atian Serb capital, which represents a significant breakthrough in the crisis. On the surface there is little to link Mr Carter's visit with the *autoput*. But the tortuous negotiations between Zagreb and Knin are intimately linked with attempts to shift some logs from the jam blocking progress in Bosnia.

In the middle of January, two critical deadlines fall due in immediate succession. Firstly, the UN Security Council will decide whether Serbia has kept its word and sealed the borders with the Bosnian Serbs—a move which led the UN to reopening Belgrade airport and lifting sanctions on cultural and sporting links. Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador

to the UN, has consistently claimed that material and fuel is leaking down to Pale from Belgrade. The European powers fear Washington wants to close Belgrade airport again. They believe Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian President, is committed to a peaceful settlement and needs it urgently to ward off growing nationalist opposition to his rule.

The Americans have claimed that fuel going to Croatian Serbs is being syphoned off by Bosnian Serbs. This is the main reason Lord Owen, the EU's mediator in the former Yugoslavia, has invested so much effort in persuading the Croatian Serbs to reopen the *autoput*—no more aid for Knin need go through Bosnian Serb territory, reducing the likelihood

that Washington will insist on reimposing sanctions on Serbia. "The opening of the highway means that the EU's *modus vivendi* for Croatia has been established," Lord Owen said yesterday. "It acts as an incentive now to have a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the lifting of all the major sanctions against Yugoslavia."

The second deadline in January is the following week when Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader, attempts in Congress to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Government. The Clinton Administration is now resolutely opposed to its once favoured policy of "lift and strike". If the Carter ceasefire works, it will give President Clinton sorely needed ammunition to defend his Bosnian policy.

UN claims peace breakthrough as snow halts fighting

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

UNITED NATIONS officials scrambled to capitalise on the Bosnia-wide ceasefire brokered by Jimmy Carter, set to begin at noon tomorrow, as observers questioned the price that the international community paid to bring the Bosnian Serbs back to talks.

The Clinton Administration last night remained uncertain about the exact nature of the former President's achievement. "I don't think Carter has pulled anything out of a hat," one White House official said. "What has he accomplished that has not been accomplished in Bosnia ten times before and then disintegrated in a few hours or days?"

A UN spokesman in Sarajevo urged the warring sides to exercise "maximum restraint" in the run-up to the ceasefire deadline. A heavy snowfall, the first of the year to blanket Sarajevo and other towns, appeared to have encouraged combatants to hold their fire after several days of intense ceasefire violations around the Bosnian capital and heavy fighting around the north-western Bihac "safe area".

Serb forces fired tank shells, mortar rounds and large rockets into the inhabited part of the partly-overrun "safe zone"

for the second day running, the UN reported. There were more than a dozen civilian casualties in one of the worst days of fighting of the protected zone has seen, but UN commanders shied away from responding to the attacks.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, had threatened airstrikes against the Serbs for assaults such as those on Bihac, a bluff the Serbs appear to have called successfully. "It is not okay to attack civilians," Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said. "For the moment the decision was taken to protest in the strongest written and verbal way."

Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy in the region, is to fly to Sarajevo today and meet both the Serb leaders and the Bosnian Government. General Rose is scheduled to return from pre-Christmas leave this evening.

While there is scepticism about the value of Mr Carter's venture, a few UN officials and military officers believe that the agreement he signed with the Serbs was critical in bringing them back to talks.

"He worked very hard on getting the Serbs categorically

to accept the [Contact Group] plan and he just could not," a UN official familiar with details of the Carter initiative said. "Instead of giving up and calling it a failure, he decided to pursue the other option." He added: "It has created an excellent opportunity, though a very fragile one, for progress towards peace. The potential for real and substantive progress towards peace is really there and it was not three days ago."

That, critics say, was at quite a cost. Mr Carter's concessions may lead to the destruction of the five-nation Contact Group peace proposal and open the door for the Serbs to force the Bosnian Government and international community to capitulate at the negotiating table.

Mr Carter has suggested that his mission and the four-month ceasefire could ultimately bring the conflict to an end. The two sides remain in dispute over the international peace plan which would divide Bosnia almost evenly between the Muslim-Croat federation and the Bosnian Serbs. Under the present plan there is no provision for the Bosnian Serbs to have a political link with Belgrade.



A Sarajevo walks past the Christmas baubles on sale at a market in the city yesterday while the snow falls over the Bosnian capital

They have also rejected the proposed borders drawn up by the Contact Group of Britain, America, Russia, France and Germany. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, was yesterday reported to have given Mr

Carter a document offering radical changes in the distribution of territory, trading land with the Bosnian Government to link the region's eastern enclaves with Serbia. The Government in Sarajevo has rejected all previous offers

of such a bridge which would lead to the ultimate evacuation of tens of thousands of Muslim refugees from the towns and villages to the east of the capital. It has been clear that the Bosnians wish to stay as close to the Contact Group

proposal as possible, while the Bosnian Serbs are trying to alter a text which previously had been set in stone. Mr Carter has dismissed their disputes as mere "semantics" but those in Washington and Europe involved in the conflict

have been continually frustrated by just such disagreements. *The Washington Post* yesterday accused Mr Carter of playing President at a time when the White House was unable to define a coherent policy over Bosnia.

Security tightened for Gingrich

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH has received several death threats and is to be given unprecedented security after he becomes House Speaker on January 4.

The outspoken and highly controversial Republican is to have round-the-clock bodyguards and an armoured limousine to ferry him around Washington, it was disclosed yesterday.

These security arrangements go well beyond those for previous Speakers of the House of Representatives, but none of Mr Gingrich's predecessors was nearly as provocative. In addition, four separate security scares outside the White House in the past three

months have left the police and Secret Service extremely jittery.

"My primary concern is for your safety, and the simple fact is that we live in a world where security must play a role in the life of a person in your position," Gary Abrecht, the Capitol's police chief, told Mr Gingrich in a letter. The recent White House incidents "underscore the very real security concerns" facing prominent political figures.

Mr Gingrich had been reluctant to accept the bodyguards and limousine because they smack of the sort of imperial style for which he had denounced the Democrats when they controlled Congress.

At the White House, meanwhile, last night's staff Christ-

mas party seemed unlikely to do much to lift battered spirits. Even before it began, the event had generated more anger than good cheer because Hillary Clinton refused to invite spouses, herself excepted.

The First Lady was said to have argued that more junior staff could attend if husbands and wives were excluded, but that failed to allay the grouches of aides kept from their spouses for most of the year by 70 or 80-hour working weeks. Even more galling, the Clintons invited spouses of the despised White House press corps to last week's parties for the media and posed with them for photographs.

The euphoria and excitement that came after Mr Clinton's inauguration is now a distant memory in the White

House and, as his ill-starred presidency reaches its half-way mark, morale has become so much of a problem that he has had to deliver pep talks to his staff. His lurch to the right since the Democrats' devastating defeat in November's congressional elections has caused some acrimony among even his most senior advisers, and an exodus of staff who feel either disenchanted or burnt out has begun.

Dee Dee Myers's resignation as White House press secretary is particularly symbolic because she was one of the first to sign on to Mr Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign and had stuck loyally by him. Her colleagues threw a farewell party for her yesterday: spouses were invited.



Stallone: Hollywood criticised contract

Stallone in \$20m deal

Los Angeles: Sylvester Stallone, the star of such films as *Rocky* and *Cliffhanger*, has signed what is believed to be the most lucrative deal conceived between a production company and an actor (Giles Whithell writes).

He will receive at least \$20 million (£13 million), or 20 per cent of total profits, from an unspecified film to be made by Savoy Pictures in 1996.

Savoy Pictures has drawn fierce criticism for the deal from Hollywood executives who fear it will have a knock-on effect on the already inflated salaries of other stars.

Familiar Stone, page 31

Bahrain rounds up 1,500 protesters

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MORE than 1,500 people have been arrested after widespread demonstrations in Bahrain, but an information blackout has blocked news reports from reaching the outside world in past weeks, according to official and unofficial reports.

A London-based opposition group also said that three people had been killed in clashes with security forces and added that at least eight people were seriously injured. The protests, largely involving members of the majority Shia community, began on the university campus and focused on the demand for the release of Shaikh Ali Salman, a Muslim cleric who was trained in Iran, and of others who were demanding the restoration of the Bahraini parliament, suspended in 1975.

The protests coincided with a meeting of the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council and led to a clampdown on all news sources. Leaders of the co-operation council, who were surrounded by tight security, discussed regional security and several gave warnings of the threat posed

by Iran. Tariq al-Mayyad, Bahrain's Minister of Information, said that many of those detained would be released, but some would stand trial.

The peninsula state, joined to Saudi Arabia only by a long causeway, has long been one of the most liberal and Westernised in the Gulf, and is an important regional headquarters for Western companies, as well as offering air and naval bases to Western forces in the Gulf.

The London-based Bahrain Freedom Movement said the Bahraini security forces began their crackdown on the pro-democracy movement on December 5 to divert attention from a petition calling on the ruling emir to reconvene parliament. The group said that the opposition comprised Shia and Sunni communities, as well as secularists, liberals and Islamists.

The group accused the security forces of attacking demonstrators with teargas and rubber bullets on December 13, provoking further demonstrations all over the country the next day. Further action, using helicopters and teargas, was taken against villages last Friday.

Militants sentenced to death

Jerusalem: Jordan's security court sentenced 11 Islamic militants to death yesterday on charges of taking part in a plot to overthrow the pro-Western Government, carrying out bomb attacks on cinemas and planning to assassinate senior officials (Christopher Walker writes).

Three other defendants had death sentences commuted to life terms at the end of the five-month trial. Four of the accused, mostly Jordanians of Palestinian origin who had returned after fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan, were given long jail sentences. Seven were found not guilty.

Collision at sea

Lisbon: One sailor died and seven were missing after the oil tanker *New World* and the bulk carrier *Ya Mawlaya* collided southwest of Portugal, but there was no oil spill, naval reports said. (Reuter)

Mexico moves

Simojovel, Mexico: A thousand police and troops swept through northern Chiapas, peacefully retaking towns as the authorities moved to regain control of rebel-held territory. (Reuter)

Sithole wins

Harare: The Rev Ndabandaba Sithole, 74, once accused of plotting to overthrow the Zimbabwe Government, won a parliamentary seat here—his first democratic poll victory. (AP)

Number's up

Delhi: Authorities have banned state-run lotteries in the Indian capital, saying that the lure of becoming millionaires overnight was turning more people into virtual paupers. (AFP)

Just the ticket

Auckland: Moira Poor, 69, who was trapped for three days earlier this month in a lift in a multi-storey car park here, has been awarded £2,051 and free parking for the rest of her life. (AP)

North Korea agrees to return pilot's remains

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

NORTH Korea agreed yesterday to return the remains of the American pilot who died when his helicopter crashed there on Saturday, and American officials were hoping that Pyongyang would also release the co-pilot who survived.

The concession came just a day after America said that any further delay in returning the pilots would jeopardise the nuclear pact between the two countries.

Under that pact North Korea is to abandon its nuclear weapons programme in return for improved economic and diplomatic relations and two reactors worth \$4 billion (£2.6 billion) that do not produce weapons-grade plutonium. The White House welcomed North Korea's "humanitarian" decision to return the body of Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon. It is due to be handed over this morning to Bill Richardson, a Democratic congressman

visiting North Korea, before he crosses the demilitarised zone into South Korea. Pentagon officials said the North Koreans had also assured Mr Richardson that Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall would be released shortly.

□ Seoul: An American reconnaissance aircraft crashed about 65 miles south-west of Seoul yesterday. "Both crew members ejected safely from the twin-engine, fixed-wing aircraft prior to the crash," the US military said. (Reuter)

PC Santas hold sway in San Francisco

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

BENEATH the white beard and red cowl of one of America's most cherished institutions, tradition has succumbed to the twin demons of commerce and political correctness. Santa Claus, in the shopping centres of San Francisco, is no longer necessarily white, elderly, plump, or even male.

Jettisoning the detailed profile of a rotund Santa provided by the American classical scholar, Clement Moore, in his poem *A Visit from St Nicholas* (1822), a Californian recruitment agency with a sideline in Father Christmases now welcomes all applicants.

Willie Edward Brown is an aspiring rap artist and part-time Santa at the Southland Mall in Hayward, near San Francisco. Used to being told

that "Santa's not black", he usually manages to win round those racially concerned with "a good attitude". Patrick Landera, 22, of Hawaiian-Philippine-Chinese-Irish-Spanish-Guatemalan descent, likewise, moonlights as St Nick, and chooses to confront the question of the saint's origins with a bold lie. "He's Hawaiian," Mr Landera tells perplexed visitors to his grotto.

The centre's marketing manager, who hires her Santas from Western Temporary Services, believes taking liberties with the legend's ethnicity "just makes sense". She says: "If 25 per cent of your customers are Hispanic and 25 per cent are African-American, you want to find a Santa that fits what your customer is."

This may be true in the liberal San Francisco Bay area, a bastion of resistance to California's tough new initiative against illegal immigration known as Proposition 187. But it is not so in Malibu.

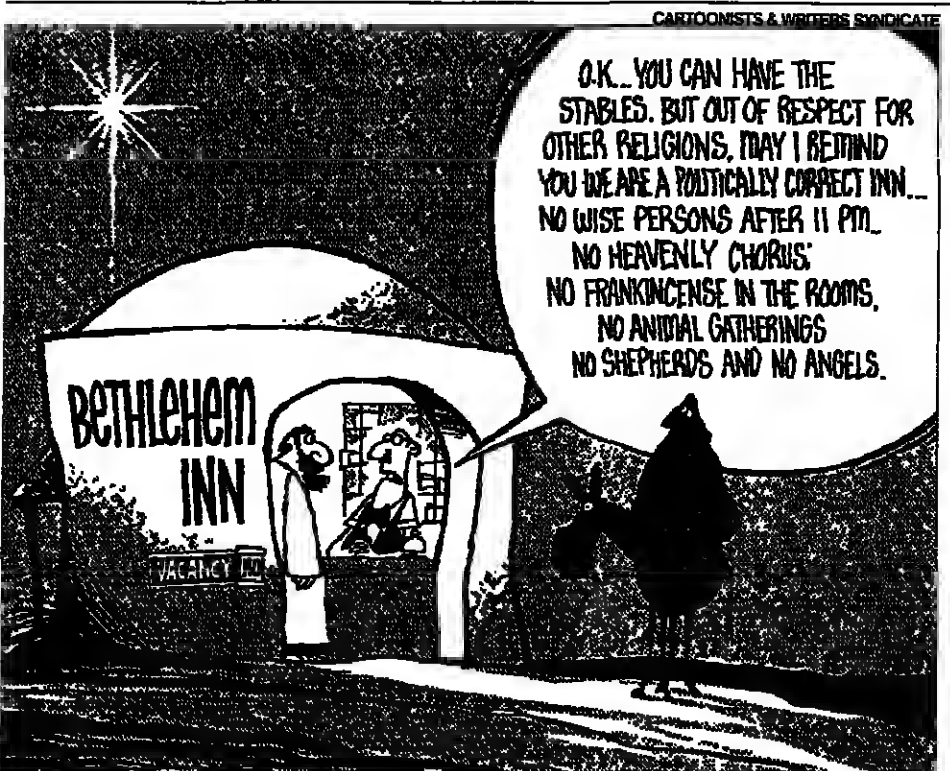
In this famous coastal dormitory for the first families of Hollywood, Christmas is celebrated with stubborn conventionality. Effigies of Mary and Joseph swelter in the southern Californian sun beside the Pacific Coast Highway. Christmas trees adorned with fake snow rub shoulders with swaying palms outside beachfront restaurants. And Jonathan Stout, an architect, is so fond of Christmas wreaths that he has strapped one to the radiator of his sports car.

The idea of a black Santa Claus meets with derision here. "An African-American

Santa in Malibu?" exclaims Howard Sands, collecting for charity. "Are you kidding? He'd be out of here in a day."

While diehards cling to Moore's vision of St Nicholas as "chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf", theories and pranks abound to confuse America in her continuing and somewhat obsessive search for "the real Santa Claus". He was, according to Don Ward, Professor of mythology and folklore at the University of California at Los Angeles, an 11th-century bishop from the Anatolian city of Myra, whose relics were shipped to Italy in 1057 and remain there to this day.

Terry Randolph, from Iowa, knows better. To silence doubting children, he has formally changed his name to Santa Claus.

Raeside's view of the Christmas story in *The Times-Colonist*, the Canadian daily

Berlusconi seeks new poll if MPs vote against him

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

SILVIO BERLUSCONI prolonged the agony of the demise of his Government yesterday, telling parliament that Italy faces an early general election if MPs vote him out of office.

The Prime Minister delivered a tough 25-minute speech to the Chamber of Deputies but did not resign immediately as some senior Government officials had predicted. He then said he intended to listen to a debate that began on the future of his seven-month Government. However, it was unclear whether he would wait for MPs to vote on three no-confidence motions tabled by the opposition and his erstwhile allies in the devolutionist Northern League.

Cesare Previti, the Defence Minister, said last night that he expected Signor Berlusconi to resign today without facing the no-confidence votes.

Asked when the Prime Minister would see President Scalfaro, Signor Previti said "an appointment is fixed for tomorrow".

Some sources said that Signor Berlusconi might choose to resign during live television coverage of his reply to the opposition at the end of the rancorous debate. Commentators said he hopes to persuade Signor Scalfaro to allow him to remain at Palazzo Chigi in a caretaker capacity or at the

head of a minority Government until an election is held.

The Prime Minister accused his adversaries of "election robbery" because they want to form an alternative Government of the Centre and Left without a fresh election. "If this majority breaks apart, it is necessary to ask the opinion of voters decisively and calmly," Signor Berlusconi said. Much of his speech was abuse hurled at Umberto Bossi, the rebellious Northern League leader.

"Bossi has put to great test not only my patience but that of the Government ... He manifests the behaviour of having a double personality, a triple or maybe even a quadruple one," he said.

Signor Bossi replied by renewing his accusation that the Prime Minister and his "post-Fascist" ally, Gianfranco Fini, were trying to introduce a totalitarian regime. "This will never again be the chamber, honourable Berlusconi, and honourable Fini, of the Fascist [the Fascist motif of a bundle of sticks] and of the corporations."

The Northern League leader challenged Signor Berlusconi's claim that a new Government without elections would endanger the constitutional principle of popular sovereignty. "You are not the state ... you are not the man

repeatedly called to order screaming deputies.

Signor Berlusconi's supporters chanted "Italia, Italia" for three minutes when he concluded and the Northern League MPs shouted "Bossi, Bossi" at the end of his oration.

Signor Berlusconi has appeared to be doomed since he was interrogated by Milan magistrates last week on suspicion of corrupting tax inspectors investigating his Fininvest empire before he took office.

But his 225 days in office have been dogged by the conflict of interest posed by his virtual monopoly over private television and his Government's attempts to curb the powers of the "Clean Hands" team of anti-corruption judges.

Signor Bossi repeatedly sought to persuade the Prime Minister to divest himself of his media interests.

Signor Fini for his part told Signor Bossi that his abandoning the Freedom Alliance meant the end of his regional protest movement. "Today is not the end of the First Republic, it is the end of the League."

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Leading article, page 13



A tense looking Silvio Berlusconi at the Quirinale Presidential Palace yesterday

Britain warms to France over the future of Europe

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Foreign Minister, yesterday briefed John Major on France's hopes of using its coming presidency of the European Union to switch attention from Eastern Europe to the Mediterranean and to pump money into North Africa to stem the rising tide of fundamentalism.

But the Prime Minister and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, have made it clear they do not see the need, or public support for, new funds for a reinvigorated Mediterranean policy — a theme that will also be a priority for the Spanish presidency that follows the French.

However they both told Mr Juppé, who has established an easy working relationship with Mr Hurd, that they see a convergence of British and French views on the development of the EU. Britain believes no French political party now wants to see the submergence of national identity in a more closely-knit Europe, and that they share with Britain doubts about the role of the European parliament and the powers of the European Commission.

Mr Juppé's visit, part of the normal tour of European capitals preceding any presidency, comes as Mr Hurd is setting up four policy groups to look

at Britain's relations with Europe and interests in the wider world. These will help to formulate some of the guiding principles underpinning British proposals for the 1996 inter-governmental conference on EU development.

Britain's relations with France have been warming rapidly over the past year, in part because of the intense co-operation between the two over Bosnia and in part because France has been markedly less enthusiastic in issuing calls for the further deepening of the European Union.

The decision of Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission, not to be a candidate for the French presidency has also eased fears in London of a polarised debate on Europe in France. This, it was feared, might have pushed Paris into taking positions intended to swing opinion more sharply behind France's commitment to an integrated union.

France and Germany agreed to co-ordinate their presidencies in July when Bonn took over the EU leadership. However, in the run-up to the general election, Germany avoided all big decisions that might have proved controversial. The same is likely to be true of France.

Veterans return to the fray

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

THE plight of the Berlusconi Government, made up largely of ministerial novices, has thrust two elder statesmen from the Christian Democrat-dominated days of the "first republic" into the limelight as they struggle to resolve an intractable crisis.

The task of finding a successor to Silvio Berlusconi falls on President Scalfaro, a veteran of Italy's revolving-door governments who was elected by a parliament that in turn was chosen under the old proportional voting system and was discredited ultimately by the corruption scandal.

Signor Scalfaro, 76, has made it clear that he wants to avoid dissolving parliament after only nine months of its five-year term. The idea has upset Signor Berlusconi's supporters, who say the formation of an alternative government without fresh elections would amount to electoral fraud.

Some have even hinted that the head of state has skeletons



Scalfaro wants to avoid dissolving parliament

of providence but the complete opposite.

The historic debate droned on in an atmosphere that combined high drama with farce. The Prime Minister's speech was delayed for more than an hour as MPs from his Forza Italia demanded and obtained live television coverage of the proceedings. Irene Pivetti, the Speaker, expelled unruly Forza Italia MPs and

in his cupboard relating to some of the corruption scandals of the first republic. Signor Berlusconi wrote recently to the President apologising for one of the more intemperate attacks on him by Giuliano Ferrara, the government spokesman.

Relations between the old-fashioned President and the brash, impatient Prime Minister have always been frosty. That mutual suspicion has brought another leading figure from the old Christian Democrat Party back on to the stage — Francesco Cossiga.

Signor Cossiga, a former President who earned his place in history with public attacks on the vices of the old political order from the presidential palace, is now sounding out political leaders on the possibility of forming a so-called "government of the rules". Such a caretaker administration would rewrite the rules governing the electoral process and media ownership and aim to lead the country to new elections in a less embittered atmosphere.

Priest and doctor take the stage in presidential farce

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

A PSYCHIATRIST with a suitcase full of cash and the country's most popular priest brought a dash of farce to the French political scene yesterday as yet another candidate declared that duty may force him to join the race.

Raymond Barre, the former Prime Minister and independent conservative who stood in 1988, said the popular support for Jacques Delors, the outsider who withdrew last week, showed that the French "are yearning for a change of air". He was therefore ready to put himself forward if necessary.

An economics professor and MP aged 70, M Barre remains popular and his presence in the campaign could dent the fortunes of Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister and current favourite. However, M Barre's relaunch was overshadowed by the latest antics surrounding the camp of Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist party boss and ever-more desperate underdog in the fight with M Balladur.

The political and judicial world was agog at the arrest of Dr Jean-Pierre Maréchal, an eminent Paris psychiatrist who, according to police, was arrested at Charles de Gaulle airport as he took possession of a million francs in cash. Dr Maréchal is alleged to have sought the money as a bribe for persuading Eric Halphen, his son-in-law who is a celebrated examining judge, to drop a politically explosive investigation into the affairs of a Gaullist county councillor.

While legal experts expected M Halphen to be removed from the case, which involves alleged graft by Gaullist officials in Paris, the judge's union

depicted him as a victim of political machinations.

Though M Chirac is not directly involved in the Halphen investigation, he has suffered a shower of ridicule this week from his attempt to exercise a new-found role as crusader for the homeless. The episode began on Sunday when Abbé Pierre, a campaigner for the poor and national hero for the past four decades, staged an occupation of an empty block of flats on the fashionable rue Dragon, on the Left Bank. With the plight of the poor and unemployed the top issue in the presidential campaign, M Balladur rushed to assure the priest that his squating families would not be evicted.

M Chirac, who is also mayor of Paris, went one better, promising to requisition empty buildings for the homeless. His promise backfired. It was recalled that when Abbé Pierre last staged such a media event, at Christmas 1992, M Chirac had denounced his appeal to take over empty buildings as a Socialist-inspired plot.

"This is starting to look hilarious ... like a pantomime," the pro-Gaullist *Le Figaro* said. France could expect the post-Christmas appearance of "an inevitable third man who will be Raymond Barre or another".

Although the first round of the presidential election is not due until April, a frisson passed through Paris yesterday when President Mitterrand's health bulletin disclosed that he had halted chemotherapy treatment for prostate cancer but was continuing with radiotherapy.

Cricketer's child sex trial opens

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

TONY LOCK, the former Surrey and England cricket hero, who is dying of lung cancer, pleaded not guilty to four indecency charges involving a ten-year-old girl when his trial began in an Australian court yesterday.

The spin bowler, 65, who played 49 tests for England and took 174 wickets, faces the charges over an alleged incident with the girl, his goddaughter, at his home in Perth, Western Australia, in 1980. But six defence witnesses told the Perth district court that Mr Lock and his family did not move into the house where the offences allegedly took place until the next year.

The complainant, who has not been named but is the daughter of a former member of the Australian national women's cricket team, said she had been a friend of Mr Lock's daughter and had been staying overnight at his home in August 1980 when he bent down to kiss her goodnight. She said he had committed four indecent acts against her and had penetrated her.



Lock denies charge of assaulting girl

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and all
other good
electrical
retailers

BT It's good to talk

How an impoverished viscountess became a correspondent for *The Times* in 19th-century France

Secret dispatches from Paris by balloon

Only last week I received an invitation from Japan addressed in exquisitely hand-brushed copper-plate calligraphy to "Mr Joana Pittman, Tokyo Bureau Chief, The Times", forwarded by my former assistant in Tokyo who knew it would make me laugh.

It reminded me of the occasion when I was visited by a political writer from a well-known Japanese daily who arrived prepared to interview "Pitman-San" on international political affairs — a subject on which the Japanese are inexplicably and tirelessly fond of reading foreigners' views.

On this occasion the writer



JOANNA PITTMAN

walked in with his photographer and, on seeing Pitman-San dressed in a skirt, turned crestfallen to his colleague and said in Japanese: "No, no. This can't be right. The Times surely doesn't have a woman in charge in Japan. Either we do without the picture or we cancel the whole thing. It just won't look right on the page."

I mustered my best honorific Japanese. "What a shame," I said, performing an appropriately humble bow. Jaws dropped, eyes popped and the two of them couldn't scarpers fast enough.

For all my wimpish complaints of the blatant chauvinism, not to mention the financial rigours and the general hardships, that come with being a foreign "cynical woman" (career woman) in Japan, my three years in Tokyo were nothing in comparison with the difficulties experienced by the first woman ever to take up her pen as a foreign correspondent for *The Times*.

This was in Paris in the 1870s, at the time of the Franco-Prussian War, and the woman in question was a formidable dame of immense courage and resourcefulness



Frances de Peyronnet, right (and inset), enjoying her old age at Loseley House in Surrey; far right, one of her columns published in *The Times* in 1871

by the name of Frances, Viscountess de Peyronnet. Recommended as a "keen and polished writer" to the manager of *The Times*, she was invited to send two columns every week — addressed simply to "Editor of *The Times*, London" — to reach the paper on Sunday night in time for publication on Monday mornings.

The Viscountess, born Frances Whitfield in Suffolk in 1815, had married into the French aristocracy in 1833 and moved to France, where she made a career of bringing up four children until her husband's sugar plantations in the West Indies went bankrupt. The elderly Viscountess's various illnesses, which included, according to contemporary records, "gout to the head", prevented him from working, and all the considerable de Peyronnet fortunes had been squandered by her

father-in-law on thousands and thousands of sets of linen sheets (the apparently refused to sleep in a pair of sheets twice and went through 365 sets every year).

The Viscountess had no choice therefore but to become the breadwinner, and after the family was besieged in Paris in 1871, she began filing lengthy political dispatches to *The Times* by balloon under conditions of extreme secrecy, using the byline "A French Correspondent". It is not clear how she gathered her information, but she certainly moved in aristocratic and high-ranking military circles during the day, and used to sit up at night watching over her husband and scribbling away secretly for *The Times*.

Certainly not one to shy away from stating her own partisan views, she was ex-

traordinarily opinionated in some of her columns, to an extent that would never survive the ruthless pruning of today's sub-editors. She was frankly critical of the French in general and of the Empire under Napoleon III in particular. Her description of the peace negotiations after the end of the siege between Jules Favre and Count Bismarck leads her into extravagant flights of prose, pillorying the Frenchman and heaping eulogies on the German.

"Of all the political men in France, M Jules Favre was the one least suited for such a negotiation... he has the artist's temperament, is an idealist and sentimentalist, skilful in language, unskilful in affairs, apt to soar above the earth into the vague etherial. The other (Count Bismarck) is a man of a clear, precise and decided nature, always open, but always prepared, solidly

attached to the earth, practical as a man of business, energetic and sure of himself as a gentleman, possessing the artist's nature too, but under control... a statesman before all things, recalling Richelieu in some points, the great Pio in others, a man of the first rank — few of which are seen in a century, and of whom two

hardly ever belong to the same nation. Permit me to say that there is no humiliation in being vanquished by such a man."

The Viscountess was permitted to say a lot more besides and has left an extraordinary record from an assiduous observer and prescient political commentator. She

THE CONDITION OF PARIS

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, JAN. 1871. The first days of 1871 resemble so closely the last days of 1870 in their most striking features. We have the same cold weather and the same yielding trees; the same continuous bombardment of the fort; the same conflicting influences, the same, continuing revolution in the Government, and the same death of reliable news from the outer world. The Government, by its official organs,

At present Paris suffers much more from want of fuel than from want of food. Bread is good and wholesome, though not white, and is not allowed, and there are still plenty of horses to eat it, but wool, even green wool, is scarcely to be had. Coals belong to an extinct period, and are not to be thought of. Government is cutting down wood at Vincennes and the Bois de Boulogne very fast, but too late. There has been a great want of forethought in this matter, for cold was there was certainly to be expected in January. The

freely admitted, however, to her difficulties in maintaining a judicial and cool distance from her subject. "It is difficult when one hates war, to write with proper equanimity about all that has been going on here for the last ten days, and I catch myself involuntarily grasping my pen like a sword, with which it would be sweet to smite and utterly destroy all those who, by pandering to popular passions and popular ignorance, have brought us to our present pass."

Physical privations did not deter *The Times*'s hot-headed 56-year-old correspondent. Surviving on a diet of boiled rice and red wine with which she made "sauces", and the occasional scrap of horsemeat on a good day, she managed to keep her household going

(receiving £5 per journalistic column) through acts of cunning described in her granddaughter's memoirs.

On one occasion, finding herself without balloon post or carrier pigeons, she found a Frenchman of the servant class who was only too thankful to desert and escape from Paris. His cheek was injected with a slight irritant so that it swelled up, his head was bound up so that he had the appearance of a man who could hardly speak, and he was taught a few words of English to enable him to get through the lines.

In comparison, my own struggles in 1990s Tokyo, and my anguish at having to wait three days for stale copies of *The Times*, pale into ridiculous insignificance.

Six years after the tragedy, there seems no prospect of bringing the bombers to justice. Magnus Linklater calls for a full-scale inquiry

The time has come for the Government to publish its evidence on the Lockerbie bombing, and allow the world to judge where responsibility lies for the worst peacetime atrocity since the war.

Yesterday evening, at three minutes past seven, a small group of grieving relatives lit a candle in Westminster Abbey in memory of the victims of Pan Am flight 103 from London to New York which exploded in mid-air on December 21, 1988 and fell to earth killing 270 people. The candle is in Pan Am blue and is designed to burn for 270 hours. For some of those attending, sadness will be tinged with bitterness. Six years after that terrible event, justice has neither been done nor seen to be done. Despite an international investigation conducted by the West's most powerful police and intelligence agencies, no one has been brought to trial and no firm conclusion has been reached on where guilt ultimately lies.

Worse, a campaign is gathering pace which suggests that the British and American Governments are colluding in withholding evidence which might finally reach the truth. One parent, Dr Jim Swire, has gone so far as to accuse Western intelligence of being accomplices before the fact to murder, and of conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

On the surface, what has been done to identify the bombers is remarkable. A unique co-operative effort between the US Justice Department in Washington and the Crown Office in Scotland has assembled what they believe to be a cast-iron case against two named Libyans who are said to have placed a suitcase containing the bomb on board a connecting flight from Malta.

The evidence came not from intelligence contacts, but from painstaking police work in Scotland, from old-fashioned forensic evidence, and a brilliant piece of detective work by a Scottish police officer. Detective Inspector Harry Bell. It was he who traced clothing found in the remains of a suspect suitcase, from Scotland to Malta. He worked from a fragment of green circuit board, smaller than a fingernail, found in the wreckage area, which scientists determined was part of the bomb's timing device. The owner of the shop where the clothing was sold, Mary's House in Sliema, remembered the Libyan purchaser well and identified him. He also volunteered the fact that the Libyan had bought an umbrella. Bell called his team back at base and asked them if an umbrella had been found in the suitcase. It had. It matched up. As one of those involved put it: "At that point the hair stood up on the back of our necks."

The prosecution case against the two Libyans — Abdel Basset Ali Mohamed Megrahi and Amin Khalifa Fhimah — is relatively straightforward. Megrahi was head of security for Libyan Airlines; Fhimah was the airline's senior official in Malta. Both were members of ISO, the Libyan equivalent of the KGB. The prosecutors argue that they were instructed to arrange the bombing as an act of revenge for President Reagan's attack on Tripoli in 1986. The circumstantial evidence is overwhelming. There is even a photograph of one of their passports with the visa date proving that Megrahi was in Malta on the day in question.

The British and Americans reached the view that they had a case that would stand up in court, and they called for a

Why the Lockerbie case must not die



Lockerbie: relatives' sadness has been tinged with bitterness

public showing on the grounds that it might prejudice future proceedings, challenges just about every assertion made by the prosecuting authorities. It claims that there is no evidence that the bomb was placed on board in Malta; that the Libyan connection is unproved, and that vital forensic evidence has been falsified to steer investigators away from the real truth.

This is, says Francovich, that the paymaster was in fact Iran; that the bomb was put on board at Frankfurt; and that it was made possible owing to an American drugs operation which was being run from Lebanon and was part of a deal reached by Colonel Oliver North to secure the release of American hostages. The authorities are covering up, he implies, to prevent diplomatic embarrassment with the United States's new allies in the Middle East, and to shield their own involvement.

Francovich has interviewed 120 people in ten countries, including the accused Libyans themselves, the Swiss manufacturer of the timing device, and many of those involved in the original search for bodies and forensic evidence. Some of what he has uncovered is undoubtedly damaging from the point of view of the Scottish Crown Office and the US Justice Department.

Can these two completely conflicting versions of the Lockerbie saga — the Palestinian and the Libyan — be true? They just might be. It is entirely possible that there was more than one terrorist operation in 1988 aimed at hitting the West. The Libyans were out for revenge. But so were the Iranians after the downing of one of their airliners, hit by an American missile in the Eastern Mediterranean with the loss of 290 lives. Could they have been co-ordinated? No one has a convenient set of minutes from a meeting which may or may have taken place in Tehran, or Beirut or Tripoli some time in 1988.

However, a giant step would be taken if the British and American authorities came clean about their evidence. It is now clear that the Libyans are unlikely ever to come to trial. In any event six years is long enough to wait. The time has come to hold a full-scale inquiry, as the relatives demand. The mountains of evidence assembled in the West must be brought out. The forensic details should be revealed. Only this way can justice be done. Former ministers like Lord Parkinson accepted this view, only to be silenced by Margaret Thatcher. John Major has so far hidden behind the fiction that a local fatal accident inquiry in Scotland is inquiry enough. Others closer to the inquiry believe that a full commission of inquiry is the only route to be taken if justice is to be done.

This could uncover some diplomatic and security scandals, such as why crucial warnings about the bombing were never made public such as why so many of bookings were cancelled in the days before the flight; that the plane was only two-thirds full at the busy Christmas period. And why Marwan Khreizat, the alleged bomb-maker, who had actually been held by West German security, was released along with 13 other suspected terrorists.

But the alternative — to allow the case to die — is not one that can be contemplated by a civilised country. If the memory of those who died is to be marked by more than candles, the cause of justice must be served by the kind of openness which democracy is meant to represent.

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New guidelines for back pain ■ An unlikely connection between eyedrops and cold feet ■ A pill to replace an injection



GARY Glitter's back stood the strain of his leaping about on the stage no better than any other. Lend's could bear the stress of competing in world-class tennis.

Glitter had surgery this week for a prolapsed intervertebral disc. Lend's is to retire from first-class tennis at the age of 34. They are not alone in their troubles. A committee set up by the Government to recommend guidelines for the prevention and treatment of back pain heard that it accounts for 52 million working days lost each year, that it costs £1.4 billion a year in sickness and invalidity benefit payments, and costs the NHS £41 million a year.

Gone are the days when patients were advised to lie flat on their back on the floor, or on a bed with boards under the mattress. The committee suggested that although two or three days' rest might be inevitable, any longer would be unhelpful because backs recover faster if patients resume physical activities soon.

All doctors fear that backache

Backs to the wall



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttard

may be a symptom of something more sinister than a disc lesion, and that other spinal pathology may be present.

The committee, in its recent report, recommends that although most back pain can be treated by a GP with access to X-ray facilities, physiotherapists or other skilled manipulation, it was important to refer a patient for a consultant opinion if the pain had been present for six weeks or if any of the following factors applied: the patient's age at time of onset of the trouble was under 20 or over 55; the patient had been subjected to

physical trauma; the pain was constant, progressive and not related only to movement; the pain affected the chest; there was a proven or possible history of malignant disease; the patient was taking steroids, illegal drugs or had HIV; the pain made the patient feel unwell. It was also thought significant if patients had suffered weight loss or were unable to bend their back, or suffered

from other neurological complaints or bony disease.

For initial treatment, the committee recommends that pain relief should be achieved with anti-

inflammatory drugs rather than narcotics. Other doctors might prefer to try transcutaneous spinal analgesia; a Bristol firm is now producing a small machine no bigger than a large packet of cigarettes which delivers a pulse current to the skin over the appropriate level of the spine. After 20 minutes' application it is reported that the pain is often eased for several hours. Since the effect is cumulative, the pain may in some cases later be kept at bay for a day or two.

The National Back Pain Association has complained that the Government has yet to acknowledge the importance of back injuries and pain.

The problems it causes in the patient's daily life results in people taking up 15.4 million consultations in family practitioners' surgeries and hospital outpatients every year. The association also feels it anomalous that the NHS will pay for the general practitioner's prescription for a truss, but not for a neck support.

●The Xpain machine is available from Emcor House, Emcor, Badminton, Bristol BS3 1HD, price £169 plus VAT

Cold comfort



A YEAR or two ago I was consulted by a patient whose wife had complained that his feet had suddenly become very cold in bed. On questioning, he admitted that he had also noticed that his hands became cold in frosty weather and his nose turned blue.

The answer lay in the drops he was putting in his eyes to control his glaucoma. The non-selective betablocker timolol, marketed as Timoptol or Glaucol, is the basis of the eyedrops now commonly prescribed for glaucoma. These drops are usually very effective at lowering the pressure in the eyeball and are normally free of side-effects.

Cold feet are relatively unimportant but some patients are particularly sensitive to betablockers and may show side-effects, some potentially dangerous, even with small doses.

Dr Paul Digory, a research physician in Leeds, writing in the journal *Geriatric Medicine*, sug-

gests that elderly people may not connect their use of eyedrops with increasing breathlessness and poor exercise tolerance — other side-effects of betablockers. Dr Digory warns that betablocking eyedrops should not be prescribed for patients with chronic obstructive airways disease or asthma. Doctors who have been prescribing betablocking eyedrops for patients for some time should, Dr Digory believes, review their cases periodically to make certain that chest conditions have not developed in the meantime. Other drugs for the treatment of glaucoma are available.

Potent pill



THE news that Pfizer, among other pharmaceutical companies, is testing a pill to help male impotence, has been confirmed by the manufacturers. The pill is likely to be particularly useful in cases where there is no demonstrable anatomical weakness — for those

men for whom a Caverject alprostadil injection would now be recommended. Mr Roger Kirby, the consultant urologist, said: "Caverject contains prostaglandin E1. It is a great improvement on papaverine injections as its action is more predictable, lasts for a socially more convenient time and tolerance doesn't seem to develop."

"However some patients don't like the idea of injecting themselves, even if it is more than 85 per cent of men, it is almost painless. We are very optimistic that a pill will, in the not too distant future, be introduced which will have the same effect."

The injection and the pill both act on the molecular chemistry of the penis, increasing the blood supply.

The trials of Pfizer's new pill still has some time to run. Meanwhile, Caverject is now obtainable on prescription. Genito-urinary physicians have been trained in its use and instructed in how to teach patients to inject themselves. About 15,000 shots are sold each month which, at about £10 before the chemist's mark-up, will mean that a patient's hour of potency will cost around £20.

Secrets of our soles

Dr James Le Fanu on why orthopaedic surgeons are fascinated by the mechanics of the foot

Cinderella, according to folk historians Iona and Peter Opie, "is undoubtedly the best known of all fairy stories — a tale whose strangeness has been a wonder to man for a thousand years". They should know, having traced no fewer than 700 variants of the story across the world.

The most striking moment in this tale is when Cinderella slips her foot into the glass slipper — what does it mean? Orthopaedic surgeon Basil Helal, who knows more about feet than anyone else in Britain, has no doubt.

In an article, "The Ascent of Cinderella", in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* he argues that the resonance of this image lies in its sexual symbolism. "The foot is the phallus and the shoe the vagina... the perfect fit ensures a perfect mating and so leads to a happy marriage." But the foot is not only a sexual symbol, it is also, he says, a "potent source of eroticism" in its own right.

Foot fetishism is common and its more famous practitioners included Ovid, Goethe, Thomas Hardy and Casanova. The practice of foot binding in China was a society-sanctioned form of foot fetishism.

By contrast the foot as an object of scientific scrutiny has tended to be neglected, the general impression being that though it is certainly a very useful appendage it is not nearly as interesting as, for example, the hand. Mr Helal finds the comparison invidious. The foot, he maintains, is much more sophisticated and complex, a biomechanical marvel that provides both stability and propulsion for the human frame.

'Joggers get stress fractures of the bones of the foot'

Indeed, the human foot is the defining characteristic of Man, his hallmark, which by allowing him to stand upright freed the hands entirely from their weight-bearing function and thus initiated the long climb to civilisation.

The feature that distinguishes the human foot from that of any other animal is the longitudinal arch which separates but the two functions of stability and propulsion. The stability comes from the outer part in a semicircle running from the heel to the fourth and fifth toes. This is the weight-

bearing surface, and the cushioning of the muscles and ligaments along with the highly specialised structure of the heel fat pad act as a shock absorber capable of sustaining the downward force of the human body that is measured in kilotonnes?

The remaining part of the foot focused on the big toe acts as a lever,

"an elastic, mobile dynamic organ of propulsion". As is so often the case, it is only when some part of the body goes wrong that its true worth can be appreciated.

The big toe is susceptible to the condition hallux rigidus where there is a limitation of movement in relation to the rest of the foot.

While walking, the stiffness of the toe puts pressure on the surrounding muscles and ligaments, which then become inflamed and very painful indeed. Mobility is obviously severely restricted and, unless adequately and promptly treated, chronic arthritic changes follow which require surgery to correct them.

The renewed interest in the foot in recent years has been fuelled by two developments.



Arthur Rackham's illustration of the Cinderella story: in real life, the foot is a complex biomechanical marvel that provides both stability and propulsion for the human frame

The first is the popularity of jogging and the punishing training regimes of professional athletes. The foot is now exposed to forces that even its resilient structure is unable to sustain.

The long-distance runner, for example, hits the ground with his heel with a force three to four times his body weight. 800 times for every mile that is covered.

Joggers get stress fractures of the small bones in the foot, longjumps shear the fatty pad of the heel, footballers develop hallux rigidus from repeatedly stubbing the toe on the ball, basketball players traumatise the small sesamoid bones under the sole of the foot and so on — the possibilities for injury are enormous.

It can be impossible to diagnose these problems without specialist knowledge of the

anatomy of the foot and their management may be very difficult — not least because the victims too frequently want to get back to a training circuit as quickly as possible to repeat the traumatic manoeuvres that were responsible for their symptoms in the first place.

The second impetus to scientific interest in the foot arises from the expectation nowadays that the variety of congenital defects with which a child may be born can be corrected surgically. According to Mr John Finsen, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London: "Children referred to orthopaedic clinics with foot problems or parental anxiety about the condition of a child's feet exceed all other referrals — it is extremely common."

He adds, significantly: "It is,

however, impossible to give advice unless there is a clear understanding of the natural history and development of the foot in childhood."

Many of the children referred for a specialist opinion have nothing wrong with their feet, or nothing that requires treatment, and it is a considerable challenge to identify these and thus avoid unnecessary surgical intervention.

This is well illustrated by the problem of flat feet which Mr Finsen divides into two main categories. The first and largest group have no symptoms and the feet are fully mobile. These require no treatment, but he says: "The position must be carefully explained to often anxious parents that their children's

feet are basically normal." However, where the feet are either painful or stiff, or where there is some demonstrable bony or muscular abnormality, then a careful and thorough examination is essential to allow a definitive diagnosis to be made and corrective treatment undertaken.

Mr Helal draws a teasing analogy between the Cinderella story and the changing role of the foot in orthopaedic practice. For many years it has been misunderstood and neglected, certainly compared to the other joints of the lower limb — the hip and the knee.

In recent years, however, the foot has met its Prince Charming in the form of a small group of orthopaedic enthusiasts whose detailed study of its mechanics have revealed it to be an appendage of complex and subtle beauty.

A widow's message that is saving lives

When interviewed after seeing a doctor, the average patient can recall only one piece of information. This is hardly surprising because medical consultations usually take place in surroundings seemingly designed to thwart good communication — a ten-minute appointment with a busy GP, a noisy outpatient clinic with only a curtain for privacy or a ward round with a dozen white-coated strangers crowded around the patient's bed. Communication skills are now a central part of the curriculum in most medical schools, but tragedies still result when an important message is either not imparted to the patient or is misinterpreted, misunderstood or dismissed as not personally relevant.

Penny Boyer became a widow in May 1992 when her husband, Miles, a healthy 34-year-old father of two, developed pneumococcal sep-

ticaemia (a form of blood poisoning). Mr Boyer had lost his spleen, an important immune defence organ, in a road accident ten years earlier but was unaware of the need to take penicillin protection against pneumococcal infection and had never received the pneumococcal vaccine.

Doctors argue whether patients without spleens should take penicillin every day for the rest of their lives or only during periods of illness such as sore throats or flu, but the lifesaving potential of both penicillin and pneumococcal vaccine in these patients is universally accepted.

Mrs Boyer channelled her grief into a large-scale campaign to educate the public and to mullshot every general practitioner in England with a protocol card for managing splenectomy patients. By personally recruiting some prominent doctors, she managed even to get the *British Medical*

Patients who have had their spleens removed need a vital treatment, says Dr Trisha Greenhalgh



Mrs Boyer: campaigner

Journal to devote almost a whole issue to her cause. Last January, Mr Boyer's story was reported in the national press and was read by another fit man in his thirties who had also lost his spleen in an earlier accident.

John Simmonds (not his real name) discussed the article with his wife and commented: "Oh, that will never happen to me but if my GP sends for me I might go along." Eight

months later, John Simmonds was dead — from pneumococcal septicaemia.

The story illustrates not just how an estimated 50,000 apparently healthy men and women, many of them young and active, are at risk of dying from an illness which is both preventable and curable. It also illustrates an important principle of health education — that young people who consider themselves fit may,

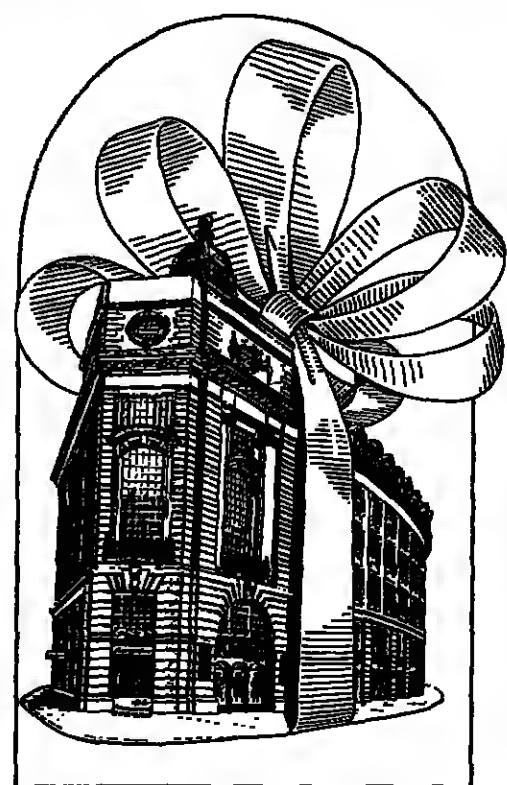
consciously or subconsciously, reject a piece of medical information even when it conveys an important, relevant and unambiguous message about their own illness or the risk of illness.

We will never know whether Miles Boyer or John Simmonds had ever been told to keep taking penicillin, and if they had, that it could be a matter of life or death. Perhaps the doctors who removed their spleens, or who saw them for subsequent checkups, were unaware of the danger. Neither man had been vaccinated against pneumococcus. Apparently, nobody had told either of them to attend hospital urgently if they experienced the early symptoms of pneumococcal infection, or even what those symptoms might be. Perhaps the words were said — but if they were, it seems nobody checked that they had sunk in.

It appears to be a driving

principle in the new National Health Service that patients deserve and should be given more information about their illness, more involvement in medical decision-making, and more control over their own health. But lip service to these ideological principles is of little use if the doctors themselves have dangerously large cavities in their medical knowledge or if they assume that all the information they impart to patients will automatically be understood, acknowledged and acted upon.

●Patients without a spleen who want more information on preventing pneumococcal infection should contact their general practitioner or the Splenectomy Unit, c/o Dr Dick Mayon-White, Oxfordshire Health Authority, Manor House, Headington, Oxford. Doctors may obtain copies of the splenectomy protocol card from Mrs Penny Boyer, c/o the Post Office, Swinbrooke, Oxfordshire.



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Berlusconi's hour of reckoning

John Phillips says media concentration is compromising Italy's democratic process

Italy is in desperate need of government, but Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon, has shown himself incapable of governing. What is frightening is that despite all his shortcomings, Italians may yet re-elect the smiling Cavaliere to the Palazzo Chigi within weeks, because of his grip on the media.

Signor Berlusconi captured the imagination of conservatives throughout Europe when he won a dazzling victory in the March election. What was not clear outside Italy was the extent to which he had played his virtual monopoly over private television in flagrant abuse of electoral rules during his campaign. Within three months, Forza Italia had grown from nothing into the largest party, denying the former communist Democratic Party of the Left what had been considered an almost certain victory.

The new Prime Minister succeeded in persuading Italians — especially young, first-time voters — that Forza Italia was an exciting new phenomenon for change. It seemed to matter little that many of his acolytes were former protégés of Bettino Craxi, the Socialist former Prime Minister, who fled to Tunisia to escape trial on corruption charges, or of Giulio Andreotti, the former Christian Democrat leader suspected of acting as the guarantor of the Mafia in Rome. Nor that others had been, like himself, members of the illegal Propaganda Due masonic lodge, which magistrates decided was a threat to an open democratic system.

Only a few of Berlusconi's disciples, such as Antonio Martino, the Foreign Minister, were genuine free-market idealists. For his part, Gianfranco Fini, the tycoon's ally in the "post-Fascist" National Alliance, lauded Benito Mussolini as the "greatest statesman of the century", but showed a political finesse which Signor Berlusconi will never achieve.

During his campaign, Berlusconi the impresario promised two million new jobs and an end to corruption, but he then appointed a boardroom cabinet including several executives from his Fininvest empire. They had no experience of statecraft, but every intention of promoting company interests.

Italy's most urgent problem is the real danger of national bankruptcy from accumulated profligate public spending. Instead of addressing this, Signor Berlusconi dedicated his first months in office to taking control of the RAI public broadcasting corporation, demanding that it become a pro-government organ.

At the same time, he insisted on retaining control of his three private television channels. This meant he was all but overseeing all Italian broadcasting. On Monday Italians were alarmed when he abused this monopoly to broadcast an

appeal on RAI for mass street protests in support of his crumbling administration.

During his seven months in power, Signor Berlusconi and his Justice Minister, Alfredo Biondi, have also expended much energy in seeking to undermine the authority of the brave Milan magistrates who launched Italy's *dolce rivoluzione*. Last summer, Signor Biondi proposed a decree law ending pre-trial detention for corruption suspects, but the Government abandoned the scheme in the ensuing public furor.

Political life thereafter was dominated by a duel between Signor Berlusconi and Judge Antonio Di Pietro, the folk hero who launched the "Clean Hands" anti-graft crackdown, until the magistrate resigned, in mysterious circumstances, two weeks ago.

The Prime Minister's battle with the judiciary has become a struggle for survival. The Government began to look ridiculous when Judge Di Pietro placed him under investigation as the head of government presided over a conference on organised crime. Signor Berlusconi then underwent lengthy interrogation by the Milan magistrates. He has sworn his innocence on the lives of his five children.

But he stretched credibility by claiming he was unaware of bribes paid by his brother Paolo to tax inspectors investigating Fininvest.

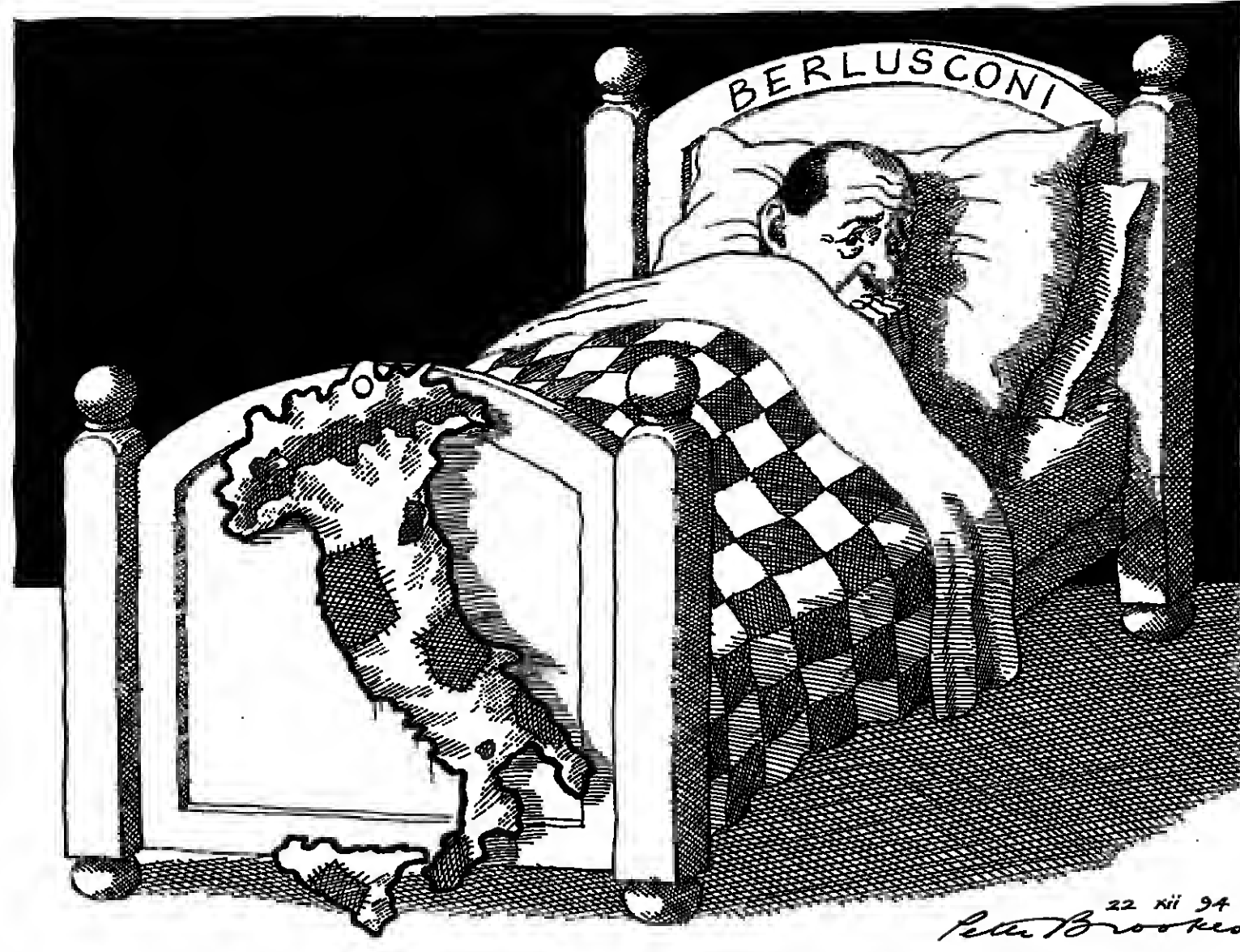
Then, last month, as the Prime Minister's judicial woes worsened, the Government was trounced in local elections. Now Signor Berlusconi has been abandoned by his uneasy ally, the vituperative Northern League leader Umberto Bossi, who wants to form a broad-based government together with the Democratic Party of the Left and the centrist Italian Popular Party.

Yesterday, Signor Berlusconi told Parliament that forming a new coalition without an early election would betray the constitutional principle of popular sovereignty.

President Scalfaro is known to hope that a "presidential government" can be forged from across the political spectrum to carry out the institutional reforms needed to complete Italy's transition to a Second Republic. Signor Berlusconi, however, wants an immediate election that he and Signor Fini may be able to win with an enhanced majority thanks to his unyielding television power and the growing popularity of the National Alliance leader.

Italians should not be denied the right to judge Signor Berlusconi in a new election. The Prime Minister deserves justice. But the *videocrazia* — his Big Brother-like control of what is beamed into Italian homes — must be curbed before his record is put to the vote, if Italy is to remain a credible democracy.

The great danger for Italy now is national bankruptcy



Too many promises

Labour has committed itself to a host of constitutional changes which would leave it precious little time to govern

Good government depends on vigorous opposition; good opposition depends on vigorous government.

In recent weeks, the Conservatives have been so busy with their own problems — made worse by the Dudley defeat — that they have not been able to test the Labour Party. Yet some recent developments have been damaging to Labour, and one major aspect of Labour strategy is badly flawed.

In international terms, the Labour Party is beginning to look very isolated. When he became leader, Tony Blair was understandably impressed by the Democrats in the United States. He had observed the success of Bill Clinton's presidential campaign, and adopted some of Clinton's arguments. The Democrats see the British Labour Party as their blood brothers, an association strengthened by the imprudent help given by British Tories to the Bush campaign.

Now the overwhelming Republican victory in the mid-term elections has left Bill Clinton as a lame duck if not a dead one; he has lost control of both houses of Congress, and the White House investigations and indictments are turning up evidence that could well force him to resign. Some Washington insiders think he will be gone by next July, though senior Republicans, such as Senator Robert Dole, would prefer a more leisurely process of disintegration, "twisting slowly, slowly in the wind". In either case, Bill Clinton has already turned from being a Labour asset to a big potential liability.

Jacques Delors is planning to retire. He is the only continental European socialist of whom the British are conscious. His federalist policies destroyed Margaret Thatcher in 1990, and have split the Conservative Party. He seemed to be the only socialist candidate with a fair chance of being elected president of France next year — though I suspect even he might have been defeated by France's right-wing political mood. If he had been elected, the 1996 inter-governmental conference would have seen a Franco-German initiative which would have created new difficulties for John Major. By the end of 1995, Tony Blair could well be the only strong political leader of the Left in the larger European countries, and even he will still be in opposition.

Scotland: A Labour government will create a Scottish parliament with significant fiscal powers, and powers to enact Scottish law.

Wales: A Labour government will create a Welsh assembly. This assembly will have narrower powers than the Scottish parliament. It will not have fiscal powers, nor will it be allowed to create a separate body of Welsh law.

The House of Lords: A Labour government will remove the right of hereditary peers to vote in the House of Lords, leaving only the life peers with voting rights. Further reform of the House of Lords is proposed as part of a more general reform of the electoral system.

These measures are all supposed to be enacted in the first year of the new parliament, subject to the size of the Labour majority and support from other parties. It is expected that there would be broad Liberal support for these reforms in the event of a hung parliament.

Regional government: Consultative papers will shortly be published by the Labour Policy Commission on Democracy. The powers of regional assemblies would be similar to those of the Welsh assembly, and significantly less than those of the Scottish parliament. They would not have fiscal or law-making powers.

London: A new strategic authority for London will be established at an early date. It would presumably have powers similar to those of the regional assemblies.

Northern Ireland: Formally, Labour remains committed to "the unity of Ireland by consent". However, this has largely been superseded by the Anglo-Irish declaration and the peace process, to which the Labour Party is committed. "Consent" is now taken to require separate majorities in the North and South.

Europe: The Labour Party is in favour of giving the European Parliament greater powers to supervise the European Commission, but is not in favour of adding to the power of the

William Rees-Mogg

The Right path to defeat

Julian Critchley on the upstart Tory rebels

Members of Parliament on the Conservative Right, whether they take the Tory whip or not, seem determined to risk John Major's boat until it sinks. Clamour for a referendum has even reached the Cabinet. "Mother Teresa" Gorman, who has cast herself in the role of La Pasionaria of the Right, is to introduce a private member's Bill in favour of a referendum, while Lord McAlpine, courtier, antiquities dealer and jobbing builder, has described Jeremy Hantsley, the party's new chairman as "a pantaloof" and "totally useless": an opinion expressed while en route to Venice, where he is to spend the season of goodwill with Lady Thatcher. What has got into us?

Our television screens are overflowing with Tory MPs to whom not so long ago few would have given the time of day: Bill Cash, Tony Marlow, James Cran, Christopher Gill and the Wintertons, all of whom we see cheerfully stirring the pot of disaffection. Does the Conservative Right want to lose the next election so as to be able to claim "I told you so" from the seats below the gangway on the Opposition benches? It sounds like it.

David Maxwell Fyfe once claimed that loyalty was the party's secret weapon. How wrong he was. When I was first elected, Harold Macmillan was the target of the disaffected, who were led by Henry Kerby, Enoch Powell and Nigel Birch. "The fellow's pink," I was told at lunch and dinner. "Boothby's got his wife and Alistair said that he would, one day, lead the Labour Party."

Macmillan had secretly asked the intelligence community, early in 1960, for a paper about Britain's relations with friends and foes ten years hence. He never circulated the document, but its conclusions prompted him to take his Government out of Africa and into Europe. He was obliged to preside, as were his successors, over a period of national decline.

Ted Heath took us into the EEC, but was ditched by the party's Right (could we really have taken Edward du Cami seriously?), then Keith Joseph became the new Messiah for a moment at least (until he made a daft speech blaming working-class mothers for bearing stupid kids), only to be succeeded by Margaret Thatcher. She retained the loyalty of the bulk of the party for ten years, until dented by a coalition of Tories. She was brought down by her arrogance and bad views.

Faced with a choice between Michael Heseltine and Douglas Hurd, the Thatcherite Right invented John Major, though he was on record as saying that his favourite Tory was Iain Macleod. Since the 1992 election victory (which under Margaret we would not have had), the hard Right has become increasingly disenchanted with Major, while unable to find a leader itself.

Michael Portillo, Peter Lilley, John Redwood, and most important of all Jonathan Aitken are locked into the Cabinet, and backbench right-wingers are consequently running around in circles like headless chickens. Sir George Gardiner, the chairman of the 1992 Committee, is one of nature's conspirators, and looks the part, which could account for his lack of success. Sir Marcus Fox has been brought to heel, while newcomers like Alan Duncan and Bernard Jenkin as yet have no real weight.

A referendum on Europe is the anti's latest wheeze, and I trust Mr Major will not fall for so foolishly self-defeating an exercise. Wilson held a referendum because he was certain of winning. That should not be permitted to set a precedent. A common currency is not a "constitutional matter", and we are not a plebiscitary democracy of the kind favoured by Hitler and Mussolini. We will hear less of referendums once the Government regains its popularity. The next election should follow upon the European negotiations of 1996, and the electorate will have the chance to vote for or against its proposals in the normal manner.

I have always found the Tory Right to be more unscrupulous than the party's Left. By "Right" I mean the hard Right, which has little or nothing in common with the traditional knights of the shire, for whom party loyalty has always been of paramount importance. Most of them are politically unemployable, and they tend to ally themselves with discharged Cabinet ministers like Norman Lamont, whose grievances they exploit as if they were their own. In times of trouble, the media latch on to them, so that their faces become as familiar as their arguments.

The Tory party responds to leadership, and for leadership it looks towards the Prime Minister. John Major's style is a vivid contrast to that of his predecessor. Many of the difficulties that he has inherited stem from her period of office. He was right to withdraw the whip from the nefarious nine, whatever the cost to his majority. What he must not do is to try to buy them off with promises of leadership, and a signal that the days of his Government could be numbered.

Julian Critchley is the Conservative MP for Aldershot.

Shop talk

LORD ROMSEY, Prince Charles's cousin and close friend, will repair for Christmas to Broadlands to lick his wounds. After a decade of trench warfare with local shopkeepers, he has lost a campaign to build a Tesco superstore on his Hampshire estate.

Romsey first outlined his plans for the store in 1985. He has since put forward two detailed proposals to local planners, only to have them rejected. This week the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, dismissed an appeal against the planners' most recent decision, and local shopowners now believe Romsey has finally conceded defeat.

The financial consequences for Romsey are serious. Tesco would have paid him £2 million to build the superstore on his land, cash he claims he needs for repairs to the estate, which costs £500,000 a year to maintain. He recently sold £2.6 million of family heirlooms.

An estate office spokesman says that Romsey has no comment to make on the decision. However, members of the Romsey Chamber of Commerce are delighted. "We weren't expecting a decision before Christmas, so it is the best present our members could have hoped

for," says Gail Foster. "The store would have been on the edge of the town and sucked away the trade from the centre. I am sure Lord Romsey has other options."

Blessed Mop

JOHN MAJOR entertained lobby journalists to drinks in Downing Street on Tuesday night. His predecessor as Prime Minister, meanwhile, hosted a far jollier affair for 100 friends at her Chesham Place

LOOK! IT'S ABSENT FATHER CHRISTMAS



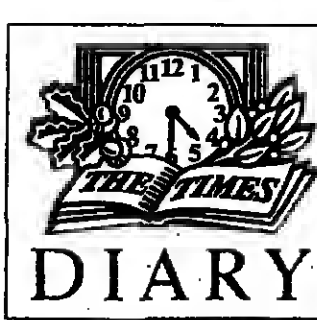
offices. Messrs Aitken, Portillo and Lilley were only to be expected, but a surprising guest at Thatcher's bash was Major's Chief Whip, Richard Ryder. It was of course Ryder who took the government whip away from rebellious MPs this month. He nevertheless lived it up among the Euro-sceptics on Thatcher's night, and went so far as to invite many to visit him in the new year to discuss their differences.

The event was so enjoyed by the baroness that her husband struggled to drag her away. "Come on MOP! We really must go," he exclaimed repeatedly. I am told that the acronym stands for "mother of the people".

Plumbers may not be able to meet their deadlines, but journalists do. The insurance newspaper Lloyd's List produced a colourful supplement yesterday lauding the success of the QE2's reef.

Beefed up

PICCADILLY was ablaze with rumours yesterday of another Hollywood-style hamburger bar. The muscle-bound filmstar Arnold Schwarzenegger was spotted putting his head around the door of the former Conservative Club in St James's Street. Schwarzenegger, who is behind one Piccadilly fast food outlet — Planet Hollywood —



was his usual monosyllabic self when pressed on his interest in the property, which is available for lease at £950,000 a year. "The key point," he said, "is to make sure that my limos can be housed."

Cheerless

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY's frugal regimen for the nation's eating habits has been taken to heart by officials at the Department of Health. They have sent out a Christmas card extolling the virtues of under-indulgence.

Taking recipients through the suitable menus for the 12 days of Christmas, the card suggests "three spuds the size of an egg" on the first day, "two slices lean meat" on the second day and "steamed white fish" on the third.

These are followed variously by "no bloody chips", "one glass of

skimmed milk" and "a big heap of cabbage". I am assured that Bottomley has received a card too. She would do well to heed the advice it contains, as she recently admitted to roasting a turkey with plastic-covered giblets inside.

Coining it

LLOYD'S losses may have set him back a little, but things are looking up for Michael Colvin, Tory MP for Romsey and Waterside. A treasure hunter has unearthed a hoard of Celtic coins on Colvin's land at Tangle, on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border.

The 96 coins, dating from between 75 and 50 BC, have been valued at £10,000 and declared treasure trove by the Wiltshire Coroner, David Masters. Colvin qualifies for half the cash.

Plain cooking

CIGAR IN HAND, Lord Grade brushed aside spice-filled dishes at supper the other night. The fact that he was sitting in an Indian restaurant in Mayfair, and that he was enjoying a dinner to celebrate its opening, was immaterial.

"No spices, thank you," he advised his waiter at the Tamarind, an upmarket establishment where designer saris and terra-cotta-



Chicken makes the Grade

oured walls have taken over from flock wallpaper. "I have eaten in all four corners of the world, and I always have plain grilled chicken. There's no reason to change that habit now."

While fellow guests such as Ghislaine Maxwell, Dave Allen and Terry O'Neill tucked into sizzling spices, the entertainment mogul would have none of it. "No salad or vegetables," he said. "Just plain grilled chicken."

P.H.S

هكذا من الاصل



BERLUSCONI AT BAY

Italy's politicians have again betrayed the voters

Italy's 53rd postwar Government is ending with an exceptionally vivid and public deathbed drama. Silvio Berlusconi, the embattled Prime Minister, is in no mood to bow to men in grey suits. Demanding fresh elections should the Government be defeated, he vowed yesterday to sit out a televised parliamentary no-confidence debate which could drag on until tomorrow, before deciding whether to resign.

The spectacle will not be edifying. Umberto Bossi, who sounded the governing coalition's death-knell when he decided to pull out, has set the tone, denouncing the members of his Northern League party who refuse to vote with the Opposition as "opportunistic pigs and lice". Italy is back to the rancid politicking which Signor Berlusconi was elected only last March to end.

For this shipwreck of the voters' hopes, Signor Berlusconi is himself largely responsible. His ideas were not just a brilliant packaging of empty slogans: Forza Italia's pledge to reinvent the corporatist Italian State, clean out its bureaucracy and overhaul its chaotic public finances struck the right note for Italy. But it was always going to be difficult to forge an effective team from the political neophytes in his uneasy coalition. His personal authority was all-important. Not only does he not seem to have understood that success required his integrity to be beyond question; he rapidly turned on the judicial forces who should have been his allies in the task of renewal.

Innocent or guilty, the Prime Minister has become tangled in the webs of Italy's corrupt past he was pledged to break. His humiliating seven-hour grilling earlier this month by Milan's "clean hands" team of magistrates would have been damaging in any circumstances. But his earlier failures of judgment, both personal and political, had already placed him in the dock of public opinion.

First, he failed to put a convincing distance between himself and his Fininvest business empire. This was an elementary

and indispensable step. Even without the judicial investigations into its affairs, it was imperative to clear suspicions that he would use his office to the benefit of the three commercial television stations he owned or vice versa. When, in addition, he placed his supporters in charge of the state-owned channels, this lent credence to charges that he viewed the State itself as company property. To these media channels he resorted on Monday, appealing to Italians to take to the streets in protest should he lose in parliament. The more embattled he has become, the less of a democrat he has seemed.

Nothing but this Government's demise is now certain. President Scalfaro, who assumes the role of constitutional referee in the political scrum that will follow, is at loggerheads with the Prime Minister over the question of whether to call fresh elections, as indeed he is over every important issue of state policy. Signor Berlusconi argues, with some justification, that a marriage of convenience between the Northern League and the parties of the centre and Left, which lost heavily in last March's elections, would be a betrayal of the voters' clearly delivered mandate to the political Right.

Against that, President Scalfaro must set the damage that three months of continued political uncertainty would inflict, should elections be called. By taking to the streets this autumn and forcing the deferral of welfare reforms, Italy's unions have ensured that the country's public finances are in no state to stand prolonged strain. It may be too soon to see in this crisis, as *La Stampa* did this week, "the breaking point where the confused state of democracy could precipitate a collapse of the entire system". Italy is in many ways transformed. The magistrates have stripped much of the old corruption out of the "system". Politically, the country has been here before and muddled through. But the real betrayal of Italy's voters is, precisely, that it has been here before.

A PEOPLE'S FOREIGN POLICY

The Foreign Office door is inching open

As we report today, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, wants to let a chunk of light into the formation of foreign policy. He is busy drawing up policy papers on Britain's place in the post-Cold War world, and next spring, he will put them to the test at a one-day conference in London. For a Government that seems incapable of lifting its eyes beyond the next parliamentary vote, it is refreshing to see one politician raising his gaze to the horizon.

The prospect of retirement, of course, does wonders for a Cabinet minister's perspective. Mr Hurd has spent five years as Foreign Secretary and would like to leave a legacy, both to history and to his successor. He will doubtless want to be remembered as the man who helped to arrest Britain's decline and who managed the transition from the certainties of the Cold War to the more fluid world of the peace.

The Foreign Secretary seems to have an optimistic vision for Britain. He sees opportunities for this country to exploit both its language and its military expertise abroad. The conference in late February will be a joint effort with Chatham House, but it will also include the British Council, the BBC World Service and the Armed Services. The intention is to show that the Foreign Office is not alone in selling Britain's merits and services in other countries. The FCO claims to be pressed for cash; yet taxpayers constantly question whether diplomats need to live in quite such a grand style. The conference will be seeking to persuade both the Treasury and ordinary people that the money it spends is for a good cause — and that more cash would be gratefully received and well used.

The most interesting aspect of the conference, though, is that it is happening at all. Foreign policy used to be made by a small diplomatic coterie and articulated by the Foreign Secretary. Occasionally, Cabinet colleagues, and of course the Prime Minister, could adjust it, but outsiders could do little more than complain. This gathering will be an opportunity for businessmen, academics, journalists and Opposition MPs to influence debate at a formative stage; a welcome move in the direction of openness.

It is perhaps no coincidence, then, that Mr Hurd is one of the Cabinet's strongest supporters of a referendum on Europe. He has been in politics long enough to recognise the stirrings that were occasioned by Maastricht. He has seen how disillusioned voters have become with their politicians, and how much better informed they are about what used to be thought arcane questions suitable only for mandarins. He realises that the notion that a single currency could be introduced in this country without public consent is now unthinkable.

There are still ministers in the Cabinet who believe that monetary union or further European integration could be pushed through the Commons without a referendum. But they are increasingly outnumbered. The Prime Minister's instinct is to offer a referendum and he is backed by the majority of his colleagues. He is opposed, however, by two of the most powerful men in the Cabinet: Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. This decision could prove a true test of leadership. If a Prime Minister cannot overrule two of his colleagues when they are in a minority, then he cannot be said to have authority over his Cabinet.

THE MODERN CINDERELLA

An Atlantic cruise is no fairy-tale

Not to be invited to the ball is an old grief, the theme has supplied the plot for fairy-tales and opera, film and pantomime for centuries. But even more vexing than the vexation of not receiving an invitation is the let-down of getting dressed up in one's ballgown and then jilted at the last minute.

Poor Cinderella never expected an invitation: so she never complained. But after her fairy godmother had transformed her expectations, and then her rags into a glittering ballgown (with tiara in the best productions), if her ruffian coachman had lost his way to the palace and dropped her in the mud to hitch-hike home, even Cinderella's gentle nature might have been provoked. She could reasonably have revised the script by saying something un ladylike.

So pity Professor Christine Hall who has just been dumped in the sludge. Compared with the normal sweep of Cinderella, Professor Hall is a self-confident modern woman. She is the American law professor who won a \$9,000 ticket for a cruise on the QE2 in the grand draw at the Fort Lauderdale Opera Ball. Accordingly, she went out and bought extravagant ballgowns for wear on the cruise. And now she finds that a shell suit would be more practical on this voyage away from fairyland. She cannot wear the gowns for fear of tearing them on the jagged edges left by her dancing slippers because her carpet is soaking ankle-deep

And whenever she flushes the lavatory, the fountains that fly up are aimed at the Ugly Sisters in only the coarsest pantomimes.

Professor Hall, who needs no fairy godmother to wave a wand over her rights and interests, is organising fellow passengers to launch a joint action. "In America you can sue for anything," she declares with a more aggressive line than is usually given to Cinderella. And she is making up for her disappointment by the glamorous studio portraits of her in her evening finery which we published yesterday.

Even the name of ballgown has become as exclusive as cruises were once puffed to be by the brochures. Gowns may still be worn at Commemoration and May balls at the older universities, with wraps for the shoulders and ball programmes out of Jane Austen as accessories. They are still fashionable at the Highland balls, as much for underskirt heating as for display, and at the grander English hunt balls. For all other dancing purposes, a short evening dress does, and a ballgown has become as exotic a costume as white tie and tails for men.

To be robbed of such a glass slipper and the rest of the romance, as the overture strikes up and the ship sails must be a wicked disappointment. No old-fashioned fairy-tale would dream of having such an ending. But the story of Professor Hall's ballgown is a moral tale for the modern world. Cinderella can stick up for herself.

Mood of hope in Northern Ireland

From the Duke of Abercorn

Sir, As Northern Ireland prepares for Christmas, the mood in the Province is very different to the past 25 years. It is one of real hope, optimism and emerging confidence that the peace process, however tenuous — it might be described as still in the intensive care stage — could indeed be established on a permanent basis in 1995.

I firmly believe that there are two key factors that have achieved this situation.

Firstly, the remarkable resilience of the Northern Ireland people, regardless of cultural background, who have withstood 25 years of the cruellest violence imaginable, protected by the most dedicated and professional of security forces in the world.

Secondly, Northern Ireland is extremely fortunate in the Prime Minister, who has the clear confidence of the great majority in the Province regardless of political persuasion, in his focused determination to ensure that peace will be permanent.

Moreover, he has demonstrated time and again remarkable perception and sensitivity, combined with real leadership and energy, to this challenge. For the peace process cannot be rushed, but must proceed on a gradual and conditional basis.

The significant success of the International Investment Forum held in Belfast last week, initiated and chaired by the Prime Minister (feature, December 12; reports, December 14, 15), demonstrated to the business community, and indeed the unemployed, that Northern Ireland is no longer isolated from the prospects of attracting new investment, thus employment, from the outside world, which would indeed assist the peace process immeasurably.

Therefore, your readers should be aware that there is indeed a part of the United Kingdom, which has suffered for so long, where the people across the so-called political divide are deeply appreciative of the endeavours and real concern of the Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,
ABERCORN,
Barons Court, Omagh, Co Tyrone,
December 19.

Tory unity

From Mr J. M. Reid

Sir, Your leader of today on the Woodcock report on prisons — "The scale of mismanagement uncovered... was too extensive and too profound to be a matter of mere 'indiscipline' at lower levels" — applies equally well to the performance of the Government in almost every department.

John Major and his ministers do not accept this, or that they are culpably out of touch with their Conservative constituents. Therefore a crushing electoral defeat is waiting to happen.

Yours truly,
J. M. REID,
7 Bradbourne Street, SW6,
December 20.

From Mr Stephen Garvin

Sir, The letter today from Mr Patrick Cormack, MP, about the loss of the Conservative seat at Dudley exudes defeatism. It is a near-perfect example of the attitude of mind which, if it prevails, will lead to Conservative defeat at the general election when it comes. The Conservative Party does not want to return to Butskellism. It needs leadership.

When it gets it it does not like it, but had it not been for Disraeli, Churchill and Thatcher it would have disappeared by now. Voters want those who solicit their votes to talk of realities. Mr Cormack's soft "middle ground" is the path to electoral extinction.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN GARVIN,
Little Brickellhurst,
Stonegate, Wadhurst, East Sussex,
December 20.

From Mr Christopher W. Clayton

Sir, Mr T. M. Harrington criticises the rebel Tory MPs because "they were elected by voters who wanted a Conservative Government" (letter, December 17).

Many voters supported Conservative candidates because John Major assured them that he had no plans to extend the scope of VAT. To my mind it is the rebels on the domestic fuel vote, not the whipped lobby fodder, who are upholding the basis on which they were elected.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER W. CLAYTON,
Orchard Cottage, Brown Heath Road,
Waverton, Chester,
December 17.

From Mr William A. Croft

Sir, You report (December 20) an injunction from Deng Xiaoping which indicates that the Chinese have, in effect, seen the wisdom of the Thoughts of John Major.

If a party allows its members to air opinions freely and act as they wish, it is of course impossible for the party to achieve unity in thinking, to have fighting capabilities, and to smoothly carry out its tasks.

Yet this proved beyond understanding to some of the voters in Dudley.

Yours,
WILLIAM A. CROFT,
6 Butterworth Gardens,
Woodford Green, Essex,
December 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Racial discrimination in Britain

From Ms Pat White and the Reverend David Haslam

Sir, Both your leading article and report of December 12 on the visit of the UN Human Rights Commission special rapporteur on racial discrimination, Mr Maurice Clegg-Abananza, were tendentious and misleading.

The United Nations has been working on the elimination of racial discrimination for many years; there is an international convention on the subject which Britain has signed. It has to be monitored, why should we be exempt?

Discussions among those working on race issues at international level in the Churches have pointed to the need to challenge the racism that is both increasing within and spreading from the countries of Western Europe.

This reveals itself in various forms, including the kind of racist attacks you mention, the attitude to and treatment of those who are seeking refuge and asylum from conflict, and our involvement in an international financial system that continues hugely to benefit the (white) rich over the (black) poor.

You claim that "even human rights campaigners and black pressure groups are deeply sceptical" and "split" about the UN visit. However the first three critical quotations in your report all come from Conservative MPs, at least two of them not known as "equal rights campaigners".

Your report also quotes three black spokespeople. One, Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, is in favour of the UN visit. The second, Makboul Javadi, of the Society of Black Lawyers, is not against it but doubts the willingness of the UK Government to respond to a UN report. Bill Morris of the TGWU believes the UN is not needed to tell black people what they already know.

We believe that the rapporteur is coming to listen to black people rather than tell them, but in any case all this hardly mounts up to the "deep scepticism" you allege. We favour the visit because it offers an objective assessment of Britain's performance in relation to the convention.

We have work of our own to do too.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WARDROP
(Chairman),
London Regional Council,
United Nations Association,
23 New Quebec Street, W1,
December 13.

Public assets and private patients

From the Chief Executive of the Independent Healthcare Association

Sir, Margot Norman's article, "Are private hospitals doomed?" (December 16), was highly biased. Your readers are entitled to know, as background, what the author did not declare, that she is married to the chairman of the Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust.

Norman ignored the real point of the Independent Healthcare Association's press release. The decision to create private beds at the Chelsea and Westminster is fundamentally flawed, both in economic terms and in terms of public accountability for the use of public assets for private patient facilities.

This association's evidence to the Department of Health demonstrated that the Chelsea and Westminster's new "private unit" is not economically viable and to survive will be subsidised by public funds. The local and wider NHS community will also be denied the use of modern NHS facilities which were funded to satisfy NHS patient-care demands. The Public Accounts Committee themselves stated that 300 NHS capital projects (including 24 major ones) were cancelled to finance the development overspend of the Chelsea and Westminster.

It was made clear that the proposal to open the new unit also failed to demonstrate the demand for private patient facilities and did not take into account the existing supply of London private beds, either in NHS or independent hospitals.

Furthermore, the project proposal failed to explain how the Treasury requirement of a return of at least 8 per cent return on capital employed would be achieved on the millions of pounds of public money involved.

Our association represents the majority of the UK's important independent healthcare providers. Far from being "doomed", Britain's genuine independent sector makes a massive contribution to the health of the nation. Without it, Government expenditure on the NHS would have to increase by at least 20 per cent; it must be remembered that 450,000 people work in the independent sector.

Yours sincerely,
BARRY HASSELL, Chief Executive,
Independent Healthcare Association,
22 Little Russell Street, WC1,
December 21.

State has so little regard for the World Heritage Site that he felt able to make this decision without an inquiry.

A World Heritage designation has no formal position in British planning law. But under the World Heritage Convention which the Government signed in 1984 it undertook to afford the area the best possible protection, because the Caernarvon site is considered of world importance. The Secretary of State does not seem to think so.

Two years ago we joined an international campaign protesting at the proposed demolition of medieval houses in the World Heritage Site of Lübeck in Germany. Little did we think that we would have to face a similar case at home.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SELL,
Chairman,
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,
37 Spital Square, E1,
December 20.

Key to sporting success

From Professor Emeritus John Radford

Sir, Mr Iain Spence, the Sports Minister, is going to Australia to discover the secret of success at cricket (report, December 13).

I could have saved him the trouble, and taxpayers a certain amount of money. There is abundant research evidence on the conditions for excellence in sport, and other fields.

The main factors include the general encouragement of an area, careful selection of promising individuals, effective rewards, skilled coaching, preferably on a one-to-one basis, and above all carefully planned and persistent practice over a lengthy period, normally at least five to ten years.

Detailed research shows exactly how and why these factors work — they lie behind the success of every individual champion and every great team.

As so often, the knowledge we have. It is the application that is lacking.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RADFORD,
University of East London,
Department of Psychology,
Romford Road, E15,
December 14.

Sports letters, page 41
Business letters, page 27

All ballgowns and balloons

From the Chief Executive of The Institute of Plumbing

Sir, Alan Coren, in his article today on the QE2 debacle, strikes like a nostalgic chord: his Dad sounds like my late father who, with my uncle, ran Watts Bros. Plumbers, Hot Water Fitters, Sanitary Engineers, Chard, Somerset up to the late 1960s.

Society around the world, as Mr Coren rightly says, fails to appreciate the scope and complexity of plumbing and, consequently, of the work of the plumber, plumbing engineer, consultant or lecturer. A *Times* editorial in 1991, for instance, declared that "A plumber was once a top craftsman, a man who possessed secrets beyond the comprehension of other mortals... Much modern plumbing requires little skill, as is apparent from the shelves of DIY supermarkets."

That was and is a total misconception. The technical and regulatory knowledge necessary today for competent plumbing design and installation — whether for domestic property, commercial or public buildings or ocean-going liners — has increased immensely in the past 30 years.

We are a proud breed, who have become accustomed to abuse since Roman times. We sleep well, however, in the knowledge that as long as people inhabit the earth and sail on the high seas, they will always need plumbers.

Yours sincerely,
ANDY WAITS,
Chief Executive,
The Institute of Plumbing,
64 Station Lane, Hornchurch, Essex,
December 21.

From Commander W. J. Alcock, RN (ret'd)

Sir, It is astonishing that Cunard should not have programmed their re-fit of the QE2 with more foresight. This lamentable episode does not reflect so much upon the workforce as on senior management, whose assessment of the time required appears to have been woefully unrealistic.

Their decision to send the ship to sea with passengers in predictably foul Atlantic winter weather with craftsmen still at work seems to have been even more unrealistic. How can a workforce operate efficiently on a heaving ship cut off from their own "logistic support"?

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ALCOCK,
St Andrew, Midhurst Road,
Haslemere, Surrey,
December 21.

From Ms Elizabeth Mason

Sir, It would appear from the space devoted in your report today to Professor Christine Hall's comments on ballgowns that she is more concerned with this aspect of her cruise than any other. Really? Were the gentlemen passengers mentioned in the article similarly questioned regarding their evening wear? And why was it necessary to inform us of the professor's marital status, but not that of the male passengers?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH MASON,
8 Alton Drive,
Lendon, Colchester, Essex,
December 21.

From Mrs Joan Salter

Sir, Renovations on our bathroom started in 1993, three weeks before Christmas. I had my first shower in July 1994 and the floor has yet to be laid.

I offer Cunard, and all who hope to sail with them, my heartfelt sympathies.

Yours truly,
JOAN SALTER,
64 Church Crescent, N10.

Christmas shopping

From Mrs Joanne Foster

Sir, With the blessing of so many shop keepers and others concerning the public's apparently parsimonious approach to spending this Christmas (report and leading article, December 19), have they stopped to consider that many people are heartily sick of having the consumer face of Christmas rammed down their throats from September onwards (I have even seen Christmas cards on sale at the end of August)?

I suggest that retailers emulate many of our European neighbours and hold back on the promotion of Christmas until the beginning of December. People would then accord present-purchasing the focus of attention it deserves, at the appropriate time of year.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNE FOSTER,
3 The Ridings, Bulcote, Nottingham,
December 19.

Season's bleatings

From Mr George Medd

Sir, I am surprised that the Dean of Lichfield (letter, December 19) is focusing on the circular and not the secular at this time of year. My Christmas post is suffering from an increase of "round robins" and a dearth of cribs, stars and wise men.

Yours in ever increasing circulars,
GEORGE MEDD,
Littlebourne Cottage,
Twynford, Hampshire,
December 19.

OBITUARIES

DEAN RUSK

Dean Rusk, American Secretary of State, 1961-69, died in Athens, Georgia, on December 20 aged 85. He was born in Cherokee County, Georgia, on February 9, 1909.

DEAN RUSK played a large part, after the Second World War, in laying the ghost of American isolationism. He helped to ensure in the face of the instincts of less outward-looking Americans, that his country met its responsibilities under the United Nations Charter and the North Atlantic Treaty. There was a Churchillian flavour to his determination to stand up to the aggression of dictators.

Appointed Secretary of State by President Kennedy he was kept on by President Lyndon Johnson, remaining until the end of Johnson's term of office. In those eight years he handled four major global events: the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Cuban missile confrontation, the signing of a nuclear non-proliferation treaty with the Soviet Union and the Vietnam War.

Rusk was Secretary of State longer than anyone except Cordell Hull, who served 11 years in Franklin Roosevelt's Administration. During the troubled Kennedy and Johnson years Rusk's friendly, reassuring, if sometimes enigmatic features — the bald head and hooded eyes gave him the look of an occidental Buddha — provided the public face of the United States.

He belonged to an important tradition of the best kind of liberalism, but his determination in supporting South Vietnam in resisting Communist aggression attracted, ironically, the wrath of fashionable liberal sentiment, and for a time obscured the breadth of his service to his country.

If not a great innovator, Rusk was one of the most effective operators of American foreign policy during a period in which the Communist powers were constantly probing and challenging the West. He said in a 1990 interview that he wasted no time on regrets. "Kennedy and Johnson are not here to defend themselves. I won't draw away from my share in the decisions they made, because I agreed at the time." He believed that the United States had a treaty responsibility to South Vietnam that it could not ignore. "I do not believe," he said, "that we can be honourable in Europe and dishonourable in Asia."

President Johnson credited Rusk with developing the proposal that led to the unconditional halt of bombing of North Vietnam in March 1968.

David Dean Rusk's father was of Scottish-Irish stock who had

trained for the Presbyterian ministry but was forced to give up preaching because of a throat ailment. He and his wife supported their five children by teaching in a rural school and farming. From his parents the young Rusk inherited qualities that were to mark his public career: a gift for didactic exposition and an unswerving principled approach to decision-making.

What lifted him out of the small-town background was winning a Rhodes Scholarship to St John's College, Oxford (which later, but long before he had become a major world figure, elected him an honorary fellow).

His education in Europe at the time when the dictators were on the march had a profound effect on him. He was present at the celebrated debate in 1933 when the Oxford Union voted that "this House will in no circumstances fight for King and Country".

Rusk totally rejected such sentiments believing that they gave succour to totalitarian dictatorships. Unusually for an American of his time, he developed a strong sense that an essential part of the American dream was willingness to fight against tyranny wherever it raised its head.

Thirty years later that vision was to fit well into the famous rhetoric with which John F. Kennedy launched his presidency, with Rusk as his Secretary of State.

But before diplomacy came an academic career. Home from Oxford, Rusk joined the staff of the Californian women's college, Mills. He had meanwhile obtained a reserve commission in the US Army, and he was on active service a year before Pearl Harbor.

His war service, in Intelligence, was centred on the Far East, latterly on the staff of Lord Mountbatten. The quality of his intelligence reports brought him to the notice of General Marshall, the US Chief of Staff and future Secretary of State — a factor that eased his transfer from the Army to the diplomatic service.

One of Rusk's more dubious diplomatic achievements — while he was still in uniform at a time of the Japanese surrender — was to draw the line on the map along the 38th Parallel which split Korea into two, and which was to feature in the war that the new United Nations Organization was shortly to fight.



involvement in any collective peacekeeping organisations. State Department morale was not helped by the attacks of Senator McCarthy. And there was disillusionment at the collapse of the Chiang Kai-shek regime in China, which Washington had regarded as a stabilising world influence.

Against that background, Rusk's singleness of vision and administrative gifts brought him rapidly to the fore. His innate caution, and a characteristic that some of those who knew him thought of as lack of

colour in his personality, helped to preserve him from the threats posed by McCarthyism, which deprived the department of some of its ablest men.

In 1950 he became Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern Affairs in time to be at the centre of events when the Korean War broke out. From the first he was an advocate of collective resistance to the North Korean attack.

In 1952 health problems caused Rusk to resign from the State Department. He moved to the not

He was the only man in the Cabinet whom the President did not address by his first name. "I didn't," Rusk recalled drily, "get pushed into Ethel's swimming pool and things like that." However, he brought into the brilliant but youthful team that surrounded Kennedy a useful leavening of steadiness, trust and experience.

He provided unswerving loyalty to the President in 1961 when a group of Cuban exiles, supported by the Central Intelligence Agency, tried to invade Cuba to oust Fidel Castro. The attempt was a fiasco. Evidence has subsequently emerged indicating that Rusk did not support the attempt from the start but, nevertheless, went along with the President's decision.

A year later came the second crisis over Cuba when Kennedy ordered Khrushchev to dismantle the missile sites the Soviet Union had erected there. Kennedy's advisers were split between reacting harshly or cautiously if Khrushchev failed to comply.

When he sensed that Khrushchev had begun to back down, Rusk summed it up with droll humour. "We're standing eyeball to eyeball, and the other fellow just blinked."

He saw his job primarily as carrying out the President's policy, not devising his own. In any case, Kennedy was determined to run his own foreign policy. Although the new President began by paying lip-service to traditional diplomacy, he soon began to rely increasingly on his own intuition and his own government-to-government contacts. It was noted that Rusk played little or no part in many of the President's diplomatic activities; indeed, he was not even present at the Nassau meeting at the end of 1962 between Kennedy and Macmillan at which the Skybolt was interred and Britain given American Polaris missiles to replace it.

Rusk had early on expressed his doubts about US involvement in Vietnam, writing to Kennedy in 1961 to warn that the involvement of US forces in guerrilla combat would lead to a full-scale war.

At the State Department Rusk did something to restore the damage to morale caused first by McCarthy and then by Dulles, a Secretary of State who had not believed in listening to his subordinates.

European observers sometimes thought of Rusk as being all too wedded to the ideas and rhetoric of the old frontiers of world thinking. He impressed them however with the clarity and consistency of his logic and the conviction that underlay it. His greatest satisfaction, he

said later, was "keeping the nuclear beast in its cage".

Personally, Rusk had more in common with Kennedy's successor after the assassination, Lyndon Johnson, a fellow Southerner from an earthy background, was a Washington professional who admired a fellow professional. The Vietnam War, launched by Kennedy, was by then growing in horror. Johnson and Rusk increasingly found themselves, in the latter's words, "occupying some loxholes together".

Vietnam indeed split the American people grievously, but Rusk's philosophy was clear. He saw it not as an anti-Communist crusade but simply as demonstrating the same high principles that the free peoples had fought for in the Second World War.

After leaving office Rusk said he thought he had made two errors in judgment about US policy in South-East Asia. He had "underestimated the tenacity of the North Vietnamese and overestimated the patience of the American people."

He always hoped that history would justify his Vietnam policy. He was also able to argue that America's determination over Vietnam paved the way for detente with the Soviet Union.

Certainly, in the great Senatorial debate on Vietnam he emerged as by far the most effective exponent of the official viewpoint. By the end of the Johnson administration he was second only to the President in the Cabinet. But when that administration ended he found himself one of the Vietnam casualties. He had no private means, and he seemed to be barred from the sort of jobs that an ex-member of a Democratic Cabinet might have traditionally stepped into. In the bitterness of the late 1960s, the liberal establishment had turned against him — even if at one level his liberal credentials were impeccable: he was in fact the first member of the Kennedy Cabinet to speak out on civil rights; one of his sons was an active civil rights worker; and his daughter had a black husband. In 1971, however, the state university of his home state, Georgia, appointed him to the altogether appropriate post of professor of international law — but not without protests from the non-liberal side: Georgia's governor at the time was a staunch opponent of civil rights.

In 1976 he received an honorary KBE. His many honorary doctorates included one from Oxford.

Rusk was a humane and courteous man, quite without vanity. He was never vindictive or petty although he could be coming to subordinates. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

FREDDIE SALES

Freddie Sales, music-hall comedian, died in Epsom, Surrey, on November 25 aged 73. He was born in Hull on November 27, 1920.

ALTHOUGH Freddie Sales was never quite in the same league as Tommy Trinder, Arthur Askey or Tommy Handley he was certainly a household name in variety and radio during the 1940s and 1950s. In Britain he packed seaside resorts with his traditional, family-oriented comic routines. Later, in the 1960s and 1970s, he did much the same thing in Las Vegas, where American audiences, after some initial bewilderment, warmed to his eccentric, music-hall style delivery.

Sales was a versatile player — equally good at telling jokes in the traditional way or at putting real life under the microscope, as when examining the trials of getting comfortable in bed or taking a child to a restaurant. However,

er, he will probably be best remembered for his "baby sketch", in which he appeared wearing a large romper suit and bonnet in an oversized playpen, wielding his large wooden "poon", that being his baby talk for spoon.

He was born Frederick Harry Walker in Hull, the third generation of a theatrical family who were involved in everything from appearing on stage to making the costumes for local revues and pantomimes. His father was a music-hall comedian who gave Freddie the invaluable advice that there was no such thing as a new gag, only a gag that no one had heard before.

Sales left school, where he had built a reputation as an impressionist, at the age of 16 to appear in a local revue. He made his first professional appearance in 1937 at the Theatre Royal, Barnsley, in variety and at 18 made his debut as a comedian in North Wales, flopping badly on the first night. "Well may ye weep," the company's Scottish

pianist told him later. "If anyone deserved to die the death, it was you." Sales rebuilt his shattered confidence and, having perfected his act, made his first London appearance in 1946, at the Palace Theatre, Chelsea.

In the early 1950s Sales was the supporting comic to the Scottish comedian Dave Willis in Howard and Wyndham's *Half Past Eight* revue at the Kings Theatre in Glasgow. Early in the season Willis was taken ill and Sales took over as principal comedian. He established himself as a great favourite with Scottish audiences. He followed the season by playing the role of the king in *Jack and the Beanstalk* at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, with Albert Burdon and Harry Gunn.

At the same time he became a popular radio star with the BBC, making numerous appearances on *Variety Band* alongside Tony Hancock and Mrs Shuffelwick and then in his own series *Sales Talk* and *Sales Now On* in addition

to regular broadcasts on BBC's Scottish home service.

He continued to be a headliner in variety but in the 1960s his career changed dramatically when a visiting American producer saw his act and asked him to appear in Las Vegas. Sales was astonished — very few British artists having managed to conquer the Las Vegas "strip". However, after experimenting first with American-style humour and then reverting to his old, tried-and-tested music hall material, Sales did just that, and became for some years a support act at clubs like the Silver Slipper, the Desert Sands and the Desert Inn. In poor health, he returned to Britain in the 1980s.

A genial and generous man, he summed up his career recently by saying "I've been lucky. I played the Glasgow Empire and I never got paid off. I conquered Las Vegas for ten years and got paid a lot. No one could ask for more."

He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

Ronald Ridout, writer of English textbooks, died on December 5 aged 78. He was born on July 23, 1916.

RONALD RIDOUT had a worldwide reputation as a writer of innovative school textbooks. As a teacher of English in the 1940s he decided that none of the available books provided the stimulus to awaken and hold the interest of the young in the use of their mother tongue, and so he set out to fill the gap by writing his own.

The result was *English Today*, published by Ginn and Co in 1947-48, a completely new concept in English textbooks in that it was written in five parts instead of the customary four to correspond with the normal five years of secondary schooling. This proved to be a boon to teachers, but of even more importance to pupils was the fact that the books were attractive in appearance and interesting in content. They were bound in cream with different coloured lettering in contrast to the more conventional brown or dark red binding, and had Ridout's distinctive logo on the back.

Inside there were extracts from, for example, *Wind in the Willows* or *Alice in Wonderland* for younger children, H.G. Wells or Byron for older ones, often chosen by Ridout's wife Betty, a great lover of literature. There were also puzzles and jokes as well as the more formal grammar and vocabulary exercises, clearly set out and enhanced by black and white illustrations. Although methods have changed and new books have superseded *English Today*, the series could be said to be the forerunner of the modern English textbook.

Ronald Joseph Ridout was born in Farnham, Surrey, the son of the geography master at Farnham Grammar School

RONALD RIDOUT

which Ronald attended. After leaving school he became a bank clerk for a short time before going up to Oxford to St Catherine's College (now St Catherine's College) to read English Language and Literature. He also gained a half-blue in athletics. After leaving university he



the same time. In 1950, because of the great success of his books, he was able to leave the firm and concentrate on producing textbooks. He turned his attention to the primary sector and became a pioneer in the use of workbooks which encouraged children to work on their own and at their own speed.

He travelled widely in Africa, South America, the Caribbean and the Far East and soon realised how ill-adapted English textbooks were to children whose culture was so different from life in Britain. He thereupon began a whole series of books based on his observation of the various countries he visited. His output was so great that he appeared in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the most prolific British textbook writer. At the time he had written more than 500 books and sold 91 million copies.

As a writer Ridout was very disciplined. His working hours were comparatively short but he wrote with great concentration for a time and would then stop and do some physical task such as cutting the lawn or digging out a swimming pool manually before returning to his desk.

Writing, however, was not his only interest: he enjoyed travelling for pleasure, joined in local activities such as Rotary and was a great supporter of the WEA. He had a keen and somewhat sardonic sense of humour and was an acute observer of all around him.

In 1990 his wife Betty, whom he had married in 1940, died. Despite this blow and the crippling condition of a stroke which had an increasing hold on him, his spirits did not flag and his mind remained alert. He continued to travel and died in South Africa, where he had gone for a three-month holiday.

He is survived by his son and two daughters.

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FIRE AT RICHMOND HOUSE

Yesterday morning between eight and nine o'clock, the Duke of Richmond's house in Privy Gardens was discovered to be on fire. When the engines arrived, the flames had got to such a height that it was a considerable time before they could be in any degree reduced; but fortunately the fire having broken out at the top of the house, an opportunity was thereby afforded of getting out the greatest part of his Grace's valuable collection of pictures, books, and papers, with the plate and principal part of the furniture of the lower apartments, which were removed to places of safety in the neighbourhood, by the assistance of a great number of the privates of the Duke of York's regiment. A party of the regiment was also under arms to keep off the mob.

The flames raged with great violence till about twelve o'clock, when the roof falling in, the conflagration was prevented from spreading any further, though great fears were entertained for some time, that the Hon. Col. Lennox's house adjoining would share in the calamity. But by the exertions of the firemen and people who assisted, this was prevented.

ON THIS DAY
December 22 1791

No doubt the soldiers buckled to their task, for the owner of the house, the third duke, was Master of the Ordnance.

The fire began in the bedchamber of Miss Le Clair, the Duchess of Richmond's companion, who was in bed, and was so much alarmed that she was unable to move, and was brought out on her bed. It was occasioned by a spark of wood from the fire, which had been just lighted, catching the bed curtains.

During the rage of the fire, a favourite spaniel dog of the Duke's was observed at the window of an upper apartment, jumping and making endeavours to get through the glass.

His Grace offering to reward any person that would save him, a waterman, by means of ladders fastened together, mounted to the window, threw up the sash, and brought the dog down safe. The Duke gave him some money, and desired him to call on him the next day; a person who assisted in holding the ladder received two guineas.

The inside of the house is destroyed, but the out-offices and walls are not much injured. His Grace attended during the whole time, and was very active in assisting personally, and giving directions to the engines where to throw the water. The Dukes of York and Clarence were also present, the former was very active and gave orders to a party of his regiment to work the floating engines. The whole loss, we learn, falls on his Grace, none of the property being insured. Their Graces slept last night at the Duke of Buccleugh's.

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هنا من الأصل

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS CONTROLLER

Director Potential
Food Industry

South package to £50,000 car

This position reports into the Sales and Marketing Director of a substantial food ingredients and branded products manufacturer. As a subsidiary of a major food plc it has a high level of brand recognition and it operates on a business partnership basis with its National Accounts. It supplies both food manufacturers and the major grocery multiples directly. Responsibility through a team of National Accounts Managers is for the development and implementation of sales strategies that will both enhance existing customer relationships and also open up new market opportunities. The role carries profit contribution accountability and will require extensive negotiations with major customer groups in a marketplace where there is significant price and service delivery competition. The position will include interface with marketing and manufacturing along with the development of training initiatives for the National Accounts Team. Candidates should be graduates aged 30-40 years with classic Blue Chip food industry experience. Having obtained your initial training in a major FMCG organisation you will have achieved rapid promotion in sales and will currently be controlling National Accounts for a significant food products or ingredients group. An earlier exposure to marketing is preferred and experience with private label products development would be both useful and relevant. The client is looking for star quality, an individual with superb negotiation and leadership skills, a strategic thinker with the potential to make a Board position in the medium term. This is an excellent career opportunity within a major group for a high achiever. The benefits package is very comprehensive, it includes a performance bonus element and is commensurate with the seniority and scope of the position. Please forward in absolute confidence a full curriculum vitae to Adderley Featherstone plc, 6 Lisbon Square, Leeds LS1 4LY. Tel: 0532 444074. Fax: 0532 451578.

ADDERLEY-FEATHERSTONE plc

Executive Search • Management Selection • Human Resource Consultancy

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MARKETING MANAGER DIRECT PERSONAL LINES INSURANCE

SOUTH COAST

EXCELLENT PACKAGE

Our client is part of a major European insurance and banking group with assets under management world-wide of £25bn. In the UK a key strategy is to drive the personal lines business forward through the Direct Sales operation which has quickly established a significant market presence with a turnover approaching £30m. The current focus is on motor and household insurance, with further selective product development planned.

To continue this success story a Marketing Manager is to be appointed to strengthen the Executive Team, consolidate current achievements and underpin planned business development.

The task is to take the lead role in formulating, implementing and monitoring the marketing strategy. This will involve the entire mix of marketing activities from strategic planning to the identification and exploitation of new product opportunities and their branding, through successful media advertising, product literature, PR management and effective customer research projects.

Results and change orientated with strong commercial awareness and business vision the successful candidate will be a highly motivated

innovator possessing outstanding interpersonal and communication skills. In support of these qualities should be considerable intellectual scope for personal development with inherent leadership and general management potential, realisable within 5 years. The ideal candidate profile is as follows:-

- ☐ degree level plus formal marketing qualification
- ☐ marketing professional with 5-10 years Financial Services experience
- ☐ proven record in Direct Marketing and Database management
- ☐ strong in analytical skills, creativity and team building
- ☐ exposure to the general and life insurance market.

If you match this profile and are ready to accept possibly the most challenging role of your career to date please make contact. An excellent financial package is on offer including relocation assistance to the South Coast area, if appropriate.

Send a detailed CV, including salary history, to Leslie Agius, the company's advising consultant, at Thompson Agius Ltd, Grange House, Brockhampton, Andoversford, Cheltenham, Glos GL54 5XQ. Fax: 0242 820992.



THOMPSON AGIUS LIMITED
Financial Services Executive Recruitment

THE TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MARKETING PLANNING MANAGER

London

up to £40,000 plus car

Times Newspapers Ltd, which is part of News International, is committed to delivering high quality journalism at a competitive price. Both The Times and The Sunday Times continue to lead the market with innovative advertising and promotional campaigns to ensure they remain at the forefront of newspaper publishing.

The company now seeks an executive to manage and develop the substantial advertising and promotional budget, and make key decisions on the spend and its impact on the overall marketing strategy. Reporting to the Marketing Manager, the successful applicant will analyse the current media spend and the benefits of other promotional activities, ensuring Times Newspapers Ltd is getting value for money. The Marketing Planning Manager will also work

closely with the advertising and media buying agencies on overall media strategy.

Applicants, who will be graduates in their late 20's/early 30's will need to have gained experience of developing above the line media strategy in either an agency, or FMCG environment. An understanding of the marketing mix, together with excellent interpersonal and analytical skills will also be essential.

If you would like to be considered for this challenging and exciting role in one of the largest media groups in the world, please send your career history to Russell White quoting reference RW/ST/530, at The Lloyd Group, Alhambra House, 27-31 Charing Cross Road, London WC2R 0AU. Fax: 071-925 2220.

THE LLOYD GROUP

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Engineered Solutions Manufacturing

North East

£45,000 car

This small and highly successful division of a privately controlled group operates at the leading edge of composite materials technology, developing bespoke solutions for engineering applications. They wish to appoint a dynamic, focussed and commercially aware executive who will develop and implement corporate strategies which will ensure further profitable expansion in the UK and overseas in a role which carries full profit accountability and reports to the Group Managing Director. Candidates will be highly numerate marketing or business studies graduates aged under 45, able to demonstrate significant success in the profitable development of a small specialist business requiring extensive personal involvement in international new business development. They will be team players with a positive hands on style, motivated by the prospect of an open ended, totally realistic, profit sharing scheme which, in addition to a basic salary £35,000 and comprehensive executive benefits, will enable cash earnings considerably in excess of the indicated figure to be realised. Please forward in absolute confidence a full curriculum vitae to Adderley Featherstone plc, The Grainger Suite, Dobson House, Regent Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3PF. Tel: 091 284 2213. Fax: 091 285 1137.

ADDERLEY-FEATHERSTONE plc

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BICC Brand-Rex

JOIN THE WORLD'S LEADER IN STRUCTURED CABLING SYSTEMS

BICC Brand-Rex has recently created a new division for networking systems and require to fill a number of high profile positions with self-motivated, goal-orientated professionals. BICC Brand-Rex has an unrivalled capability and expertise in the data communications market and is now expanding its product offer to embrace cable termination and patching equipment, passive infrastructure components such as patch panels and faceplates, revolutionary "Blown Fibre" installation technology and a comprehensive range of connectors, accessories and tools.

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES

These high profile positions will focus on key market segments with responsibility for identifying and delivering complete networking solutions.

It is anticipated these positions will be located in the South East, Midlands, and North West of England.

We require individuals who possess excellent interpersonal skills and who will definitely be 100 per cent customer focused.

You will thrive on negotiation and have a clear track record of searching out and securing new business.

NETWORK SOLUTIONS PRODUCT MANAGERS

These roles have overall technical responsibility for the development of the architecture of complex structured cabling systems. You will assimilate and understand the technology and application requirements of such systems, enabling the design of solutions to meet the clients needs.

We require a degree of technical expertise and preferably a number of years experience in the design of data networks.

It is anticipated you will be located in North East England or East Central Scotland.

For the right people we can offer a very competitive package coupled with the respect high achievers deserve in a successful company.

Please write for an application form to Ellen Colville, BICC Brand-Rex Limited, Viewfield Industrial Estate, Glenrothes, Fife KY6 2RS.

BICC Group

BICC Brand-Rex

A BICC Cables company

UK OPERATIONS MANAGER

(BASED HEATHROW)

£ SUBSTANTIAL + EXPENSED CAR, PROFIT RELATED BONUS, MEDICAL COVER & PENSION

We are a highly successful global car rental company with an extensive network in the UK. Due to the planned development of the existing job holder an opportunity has arisen for an Operations Manager responsible for our UK Corporate Operations network.

You will manage the network's operations and local marketing efforts with a focus on increasing the profitability of the locations, growing market share and ensuring maximum effectiveness of vehicle rental, customer satisfaction and the management and motivation of employees. You will monitor and review each location on a regular basis so as to ensure profitability and adherence to planned business performance levels, and will be called upon to analyse profit and loss statements to identify problems and opportunities and act decisively to resolve issues.

Ideally aged late twenties to early thirties and educated to graduate level, you should have an impressive record of multi-site management success in the service industry. Ideally this experience will have been gained in the car rental or travel/hotel sector, where you will have occupied a significant management position for at least five years and now be looking to advance your career. Some exposure to airport operations would also be an advantage. We expect you to demonstrate a strong financial ability and operational business sense, and you must be familiar with with PC spreadsheets.

Superior communication, interpersonal and presentation skills will also be a necessity. We are at an exciting stage in our development as a Global Organisation and there are genuine career opportunities for reliably qualified and motivated individuals.

If you feel you meet this profile and would like to be considered please send a full C.V. in confidence to: Box No 2586, Times Newspapers, 1 Virginia Street, London, E1 9GA.

Deutsche Telekom Ltd.,

the London-based subsidiary of DBP Telekom, Europe's largest telecommunications carrier, is looking to recruit

A Senior Telecommunications Business Development Manager (ref:SBM)

A Senior Telecommunications Account Manager (ref:SAM)

Telecommunications Account Managers (ref:AMX)

All positions are London-based and require

- broad expertise in business development (design development and implementation of telecommunications services)
- good command of German (ref:SBM)
- broad practical sales experience (ref:SAM)
- practical sales experience (ref:AMX)

Successful candidates will receive an attractive remuneration package, together with generous benefits.

Applicants should write quoting present earnings and enclosing a current CV to Deutsche Telekom Ltd., 33 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FR. Please mark envelopes with the relevant job ref code.

Recruitment Manager

Central London - to £30k plus benefits

Rapid expansion in the European practice of a prestigious international management consulting firm has created a challenging opportunity for a highly skilled recruiting professional. In order to support continued growth, the firm has decided to create a new dedicated recruitment role.

The Recruitment Manager will have a key role to play in building the firm's practice in Europe.

Responsibilities will include:

- Assisting Partners and Consultants with the development of our annual recruitment plans and programmes
- Logistics management for our overall BA and MBA recruitment activities (candidate screening, campus presentations, interviewing, candidate follow-up, special events etc.)
- Liaison with University and Business School campuses
- Hosting candidates during office visits

The successful candidate will be a skilled and resourceful organiser, with a record of achievement in a comparable role.

Experience of dealing with business schools and of the management consultancy profession are advantageous.

Interested candidates should send a detailed CV to: Peter Aves, Marakon Associates, 1-3 Strand, London, WC2N 5HP, including details of current remuneration and availability.

Marakon Associates

Search & Selection

Birmingham

Excellent Salary,
Bonus, Benefits & Car

Hoggett Bowers is widely recognised as one of Britain's leading Search & Selection organisations. Recently endorsed by achieving ISO 9002, our reputation has been built upon our commitment to quality and excellence.

As a result of our continued growth and development, opportunities exist for outstanding Search & Selection consultants to join our team in Birmingham.

Candidates should possess a good first degree, ideally a professional post graduate qualification and must demonstrate a proven track record within a professional recruitment environment, together with the ability to develop business at the highest level.

In return Hoggett Bowers provides exceptional training and career development and the opportunity to join one of Britain's most progressive Recruitment Groups.

We also invite applications from candidates interested in working in our London and Manchester offices.

To apply, please send your Curriculum Vitae detailing current salary package to: Cindy Irvine, Managing Director, Hoggett Bowers, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 3DF, quoting Ref: HCB/94/8/ST.



Hoggett Bowers
EXECUTIVE SEARCH AND SELECTION

Head of Production

(Blow-Fill-Seal Technology)

Cheshire

c.£45,000 Package

This independent division of a trans-national business is a centre of excellence and part of the fastest growing eye care company in the world. Following a major investment in new plant and equipment, the company now wishes to appoint an experienced production professional to manage and capitalise on its extremely sophisticated computer-controlled technology operating under hygienic conditions.

Reporting to the Managing Director you will be a member of the Management Committee, participating in the general management of the business. With responsibility for a sizeable number of production and engineering staff you will ensure that high quality cost-competitive products are made available to the market on schedule.

Probably aged 35 to 45 and educated to degree level you will come from a MRP II background where cost reduction, culture change and continuous improvement have been achieved. The successful candidate will have at least 5 years experience in senior production management and possess strong man-management skills.

Of particular interest are applicants with knowledge of liquid filling and packaging as well as GMP and the Medical Devices Directive. Rewards and prospects are excellent for a commercially minded manager able to impact on the business.

Interested candidates should, in the first instance, submit a CV to Derek Haynes, Hoggett Bowers, Amethyst House, Spring Gardens, Manchester, M2 1EA, 061-832 0445. Fax: 061-832 0089, quoting Ref: MDH/6331/ST.



Hoggett Bowers
EXECUTIVE SEARCH AND SELECTION



Franklin Mint is the world's leading creator of fine quality collectables and one of the largest direct response marketers. They are now looking to add three key roles to their team which is based in London Docklands.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS SUPPORT - Europe

As potential successor to the Vice President and General Manager - Europe, you will direct the operations support functions vital to the success of Franklin Mint's business activities in Europe.

People and information systems resources which support our Customer Service and marketing operations are critical in our direct marketing environment. You will be responsible for providing effective support in these areas and for developing and implementing progressive new systems to meet our future business needs.

You are likely to be energetic and ambitious, with the maturity and presence to direct this key area. You should demonstrate a strong understanding of direct marketing/customer service operations as well as consumer credit control and collections methods with a strategic understanding of information systems and computer operations. An effective line manager, you will have excellent analytical skills and a strong business acumen. Ref: LH/FM/1094.

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING MANAGER - Europe

We are looking for a results oriented, highly motivated professional with a history of achievement in the development and implementation of training programmes and the demonstrated ability to contribute to operational improvement initiatives. A "process" thinker, you will help advance our efforts to improve our service performance throughout the UK and continental Europe.

To fill this key Pan-European support role, we seek a strong leader with excellent communication skills, as you will work closely with the Customer Service groups in our eight European offices and liaise with our US headquarters. You must be fully PC literate. Previous experience with online Customer Service systems and European language skills are definite pluses. Ref: LH/FM/1194.

MANAGER, CUSTOMER SERVICE OPERATIONS - UK

Reporting to the Director of Customer Service - Europe, you will lead our UK Customer Service operations, including Mail Operations, Order and Payment Processing, Product Returns and the Inquiry Phone Centre. A strong leader with service quality vision, you will motivate a team of over 70 Customer Service professionals in delivering excellent standards of service to our UK customer base. You will work cross-functionally to support and influence Marketing, Fulfillment and Information Systems.

You bring your past successes in managing high volume service and processing operations, ideally in a direct marketing or mail order environment. In addition, you must possess a solid understanding of computer and call management (ACD) systems and offer strong project management and analytical skills. Ref: LH/FM/1294.

If you can meet these criteria and perform well in a demanding, fast moving environment, Franklin Mint can offer you exceptional opportunities.

Applicants should write in the first instance, enclosing a full CV and details of current salary, to: Lorraine Horne, Mercuri Urval Limited, Spencer House, 29 Grove Hill Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3BN. Tel: (081) 853 8466. Fax: (081) 861 1978. Please quote the relevant reference number on all correspondence.

Mercuri Urval

GENERAL SALES MANAGER Birmingham

REHAU Limited is Europe's largest processor of UPVC parts and has a significant manufacturing and sales presence in the UK. We manufacture components for a wide range of industrial applications, providing quality products, for amongst others, window, domestic appliances, electrical, automotive and furniture industries.

We are looking for a General Sales Manager to head up our Midlands region operation.

Reporting to the UK Sales and Marketing Director the successful candidate will have full responsibility for the efficiency and profitability of the business within this region. He/she will control a team of Area Sales Managers as well as internal Sales Administrators. Control of the warehouse is also a key responsibility involving purchasing and stock control. You will be concerned with planning and budgeting and the normal disciplines of setting and meeting sales targets. In addition you will take personal charge of certain large key accounts.

The successful candidate will have had substantial industrial sales experience as well as the direct experience of managing a sales team. He/she will be able to work in a technical environment and ideally would have a degree or equivalent qualification.

A working knowledge of German is a desirable requirement as you will be involved in frequent contact with our German parent company.

We offer a competitive salary and terms and conditions of employment commensurate with this key management position.

Please write with CV and salary details to: Mr D Burdick, Director - Personnel at REHAU Ltd, Pegasus Court, 27 Harshe Street, Slough, Berkshire SL1 1PA. (STRICTLY NO AGENCIES)



MANAGEMENT CONSULTING: TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

We need experienced consultants to support the growth in our international practice in the fibre, textile and clothing industries. Our services include strategic business research and analysis, marketing, technology policy and management training.

Previous international experience in our target industries is essential, including in-depth exposure to one or more of the apparel, home fashions and technical textile supply chains. Fluent European languages would be a distinct advantage.

CONSULTANTS: with a strong grounding in the techniques of strategic business analysis and management consulting and good project leadership and client management experience, probably gained by working for a large textile group or an international consulting firm. There are full-time opportunities at all levels of seniority. Relocation may not be necessary.

ASSOCIATE CONSULTANTS: who wish to be on our register of independent expert consultants who are available to work on international projects as they arise. Key areas of expertise include: manufacturing, systems, logistics, technology, accounting and finance, international trade and marketing, management training and company restructuring.

Please send written applications, including a detailed CV, to Emma Howe at the address below.



Peter House
St Peter's Square
Manchester M1 5AQ
Tel: 0161 236 0303
Fax: 0161 236 0310

BEA BRITISH BANKERS' ASSOCIATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The British Bankers' Association, which is the leading voice of the banking and financial services industry in the UK, represents its members on a broad range of issues.

We have a vacancy at Assistant Director level. The successful candidate will be involved in addressing current issues affecting the banks and contributing positively to policy making and the coordination of the bank's relations with outside bodies. The work will entail thorough research and an analytical approach and an important factor for any candidate will be an ability to take forward complex technical or policy issues.

The Association is going through a period of change and development. In particular there is a need to position the organisation to respond more effectively to the changing market place for financial services. The key attributes required are intellect, flexibility and drive. Experience of the financial services industry would be useful but not essential as there will be considerable opportunities to develop experience across a broad base including dealing with government departments and institutions within the European community.

Competitive salary offered around £35,000 - £40,000 depending on experience, with a number of other benefits.

Applicants should write, with their CV and details of current salary, to: Michael Evans, Director, Administration, 10 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9EL, quoting reference ST1254.

SALES CONSULTANTS OTE £25/£50K

We are a national group in our field. During the last 22 years we have built an unrivalled reputation for reliability and performance.

We require specialist Sales Consultants, 35/45 years of age, who need to earn a minimum of £25K p.a. and would like the opportunity to join our top achievers earning around £50K p.a. Our consultants work exclusively with selected British Agents, Medical Centres, Schools, Colleges and Civil Service for 2/3 weeks at a time.

Our open-ended commission scheme has excellent bonus features and is available on an annual opportunity basis. Sales professionals of integrity and ability should respond.

NORMAN HAMPEL 0253 783234 (24 HOURS).

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Call 0253 783234

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Tetra Laval Food

NEW STRATEGIC POSITION

PACKAGING SYSTEMS TEST ENGINEER

Tetra Laval Food, part of the Tetra Laval Group specialising in supplying complete processing and packaging solutions to the food industry, are looking for an experienced Packaging Systems Test Engineer who can take the initiative working in a strategic packaging development team. The position is challenging with extensive travel and excellent career prospects as you would expect from an international group. The candidate must be able to communicate in German and be fluent in English in both written and spoken form. The position will report to the Vice President Packaging in the Business Area Convenience Food and will be based near Eindhoven in the Netherlands.

The position

The Systems Test Engineer will be responsible for:

- Validating new machine and material developments
- Specifying machine parameters
- Solving machine and material problems
- Systemising new material developments
- Visiting customers throughout Europe

The ability to understand thermoforming machine behaviour is a key requirement. Applicants must have a packaging background.

Candidates should have at least 3 years relevant experience together with the necessary qualifications and have a dynamic forward thinking approach.

Please send your C.V. together with a personal letter of application to Mr M. van den Einden, Personnel Department, P.O. Box 1, Beekakker 11, 5760 AA Bakel, The Netherlands.

Production Director M D DESIGNATE

£35,000 + bonus + car + benefits

Cheshire

Our client is a profitable and expanding light engineering company within a major plc, manufacturing a diversified range of quality products and components for a wide customer base.

The current turnover is £4 million and the company has a continuing commitment to new product development, quality, selective capital investment, improvement in its manufacturing efficiency and quick response to customer demand and market trends.

Responsibility is for all aspects of production from receipt of order to despatch. You should have a strong production engineering background, and 'hands on' line

management experience with a unionised labour force in a flexible fast moving engineering environment using modern production methods. Educated to degree level or equivalent, it is essential you have the ability to motivate at all levels by hard work, personal commitment and good communication skills.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a well established group, with the right candidate capable of progressing to the MD position within two years.

To apply, please write with full personal and career details to: Mike Hunter, MSL Advertising Services Limited, Ebor Court, Wengate, Leeds LS1 4ND.



Career Development Consultant

Could Haysbury have more than 40 years' experience of helping individuals, small and medium sized businesses find their career potential, often when they are facing redundancy. We are now looking for a Career Manager to add to our team of consultants - primarily to private clients.

You need previous ability to sell in this market, excellent interpersonal skills and you must have a good industrial or commercial career record. A dispassionate and mature personality to be a credible career consultant are also essential.

This is an equal opportunities recruitment, as we want to hear from both women and men who fit these requirements. Please write, enclosing how you meet the criteria and detailing your CV and details of current earnings, to: Brian Wardlaw, Managing Director, Career Manager, 26/27 Penny Street, London W1P 5AF. Closing date: 10th January 1995.

GRADUATE TRAINEE

Balmoral Scanomat is a progressive company marketing high quality beverage systems. Due to continued expansion we now have a genuine opportunity for a commercially orientated graduate (21-25) to join our team.

Write or fax: P. Franchino, Balmoral Scanomat, Millfield Close, Ebor Court, Wengate, Leeds LS1 4ND. Fax 0504 811886

Our client, a highly successful, fast expanding customer service organisation concerned with the processing of high volume customer transactions, is currently seeking a first rate:

FINANCE MANAGER

c.£45k + Benefits Near Edinburgh

The following key requirements have been identified as essential in order to succeed in this challenging role:

- You will be professionally qualified with a number of years experience at a senior level within a large and dynamic organisation.
- With a proven track record you will be able to demonstrate the technical and managerial flair to run a busy finance department and all of its operational, development and control functions.
- You will be extremely flexible and energetic with the ability to work under pressure in a dynamic but exciting environment.

In addition to a highly attractive salary, a comprehensive package will be offered.

To apply, please write in the strictest confidence, enclosing your CV stating current salary, to:

Craig Paterson, Managing Director
Melville Craig Executive Resourcing
26 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EP Ref CP

MELVILLE CRAIG GROUP

Europe's leading career management and outplacement consultancy, InterExec, has nearly 20 years' experience of career development for senior executives and many of Britain's largest companies.

Accessing over 6,000 unadvertised vacancies a year, mostly at £40 - 150,000 p.a. InterExec provides clients with vital market intelligence and its subsidiary, InterMx, makes personal recommendations from its candidate bank, without charge, to an extensive network of contacts.

CDOA Call Keith Mitchell on 0171 930 5041 or Nicki Payne on 0131 351135
19 Charing Cross Road, 1 Grosvenor Square
London WC2H 0ES Southampton SO15 2SB

Sandra Costello on 0131 225 8414
63 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2JG

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BEILSTEIN INFORMATION
International Information Provider
**Sales Manager,
UK & Scandinavia**
£30,000 + Commission + Bonus + Car
United Kingdom

Challenging position for information professional with strong sales experience.

Beilstein Information Systems holds a pre-eminent position in its marketplace and an outstanding worldwide reputation as a publisher of chemical information databases, software systems and hard copy. In order to service an increasing Client base it is now seeking an outstanding sales professional to expand operations in the UK and Scandinavia.

Your challenge and mission is to intensify the contact with its customers in research and information centres, to satisfy existing needs and identify and secure new markets in this rapidly evolving arena.

Educated to at least degree level, you will be able to demonstrate a successful record in high-level sales, preferably in the information industry. A knowledge of or interest in the chemical or pharmaceutical sectors would be desirable, but proven business acumen and the authority and competence to carry out negotiations at the highest level will be prerequisites.

The position offers a generous incentive programme and the opportunity to join a dynamic corporation in the next stage of its development.

Please send full CV, stating salary, Ref S5316 to:

André Morris
TFPL Ltd
17 - 18 Britton Street
London
EC1M 5NQ

BBC Monitoring
Editor

BBC Monitoring is Britain's national agency for the collection and dissemination of information and comment on political and economic developments throughout the world as transmitted by foreign broadcasting organisations and news agencies.

Editor Monitoring is responsible to the General Manager for all aspects of the journalistic operation involving some 350 staff. The job covers establishing editorial policy in line with business needs and meeting diverse and often conflicting customer requirements efficiently and effectively. The job holder will be responsible for managing an on-going process of change as well as implementing recommendations arising out of a recent Foreign and Commonwealth Office led Review of Monitoring.

You must have substantial editorial experience at a senior level with a proven track record of managing people, resources and implementing change. You must also have the ability to negotiate enabling agreements with key customers, both internal and external. You will need to demonstrate that you have the diplomatic and interpersonal skills necessary to implement the required changes to work practices, staff skills and attitudes. You will be expected to acquire an understanding of BBC Monitoring's business needs quickly. You will be the deputy to the General Manager and overseas travel is required.

Salary £50 - £56k package, including company car and private health insurance. Relocation expenses will be considered. Based Reading, Berkshire.

For further information and an application form contact (quote ref. 17499/SM) Charlotte Dodd, BBC Monitoring, Caversham Park, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8TZ. Tel: 01734 469847. Application forms to be returned by January 12th. Interviews will be held on 9 February 1995.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANNEL SALES SPECIALISTS

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT RANK XEROX IS ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY RESPECTED COMPANIES IN THE OFFICE PRODUCTS MARKET. TRADITIONALLY THEY HAVE LED THE FIELD IN THE SALE OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO END USERS AND MAJOR CORPORATES. DUE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MULTIFUNCTION DEVICES AND TECHNICALLY ADVANCED PERIPHERALS IT'S FUTURE DIRECTION REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF CURRENT INDIRECT CHANNELS. ACCORDINGLY RANK XEROX NOW SEEK EXPERIENCED CHANNEL SALES PEOPLE.

DEALER ACCOUNT MANAGERS

NORTH, MIDLANDS & SOUTH WEST

EXCEPTIONAL PACKAGE + CAR

Reporting to the Channel Operations Manager you will be responsible for building and developing key distributor, dealer and IAR accounts in your territory. As an instrumental manager of these accounts you will provide commercial sales and marketing support to ensure the successful launch of new products and the achievement of realistic revenue goals. To qualify for these positions you will have 3-5 years channel sales experience and must be able to demonstrate a successful track record in targeting and developing named re-seller accounts in the IT/high tech sector.

DEALER SUPPORT EXECUTIVES

NORTH OR SOUTH
£18,000-£25,000 + CAR

FULL OR PART TIME

Working closely with the Dealer Account Managers you will ensure re-sellers focus on and are capable of selling Rank Xerox products and solutions. You will have daily contact with customers in the field and will be responsible for the design and delivery of sales, marketing and training initiatives to build The Document Company's position as a leader in the market. Candidates with 2-5 years sales, marketing or training experience in the IT/high tech market would be preferred. However, given the flexible nature of the roles, individuals looking for part time hours or job sharing opportunities would be seriously considered.

CORPORATE ACCOUNT SPECIALIST

NORTH/SCOTLAND & MIDLANDS

£35,000-£40,000 + CAR

Reporting to the Channel Operations manager this key individual will have

responsibility for targeting major corporate accounts and working with selected re-sellers on negotiation and fulfilment of large, solution orientated contracts. You will ensure maximum penetration of new and existing accounts, promoting the Rank Xerox brand and will monitor, control and report business progress both internally at Rank Xerox and externally to your chosen re-sellers. Ideally you will have at least 3 years direct sales experience in the PC/office automation environment. You must be able to demonstrate a successful track record of new business development and account management and possess the character and personality to manage tasks through others.

In all cases we are looking for individuals with exceptional interpersonal and communication skills who can demonstrate a clear understanding of commercial issues and opportunities.

To express your interest in any of these positions please write enclosing your curriculum vitae to our advising consultants - Andrew Bailey or William Barribal at Michael Page Sales & Marketing, Windsor Bridge House, 1 Brocas Street, Eton, Berkshire, SL4 6BW, Fax: 01753 830889.

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY
RANK XEROX

We only discriminate on ability

Michael Page Sales & Marketing

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Computing power, marketing strength
Circa £32k + car + benefits

A wholly owned but autonomous subsidiary within Mitsubishi Electric, Apricot Computers Limited designs and manufactures IBM compatible PCs, file servers and workstations. Only one thing compares with the power of our products - and that's our marketing strength. Together, they've positioned us as a market leader in the UK. Together, they promise much for the future. And together they add up to this exciting marketing challenge.

Taking a pivotal role within an innovative and market driven organisation, you'll spearhead all general marketing communications activities. Managing a professional team and its budget, this is a significant challenge where results will be expected - so we'll give you full responsibility for all aspects of this work, from selection of agencies and consultants through to the design and implementation of marketing campaigns (including product launches and exhibitions). You'll also act as a frontline media spokesperson, so we'll be looking for a talented marketer who's equally at home in the hot seat and the spotlight.

A strong communicator, you should be a graduate with at least 5 years' marketing experience in a similarly fast growing and rapidly changing business - preferably within the IT industry. You must also possess the skills and credibility to lead a dedicated team and contribute to corporate marketing strategy - so we'll be looking for a proven track record of management, both operational and strategic.

Reporting to the Group Marketing Director, and arising through a mix of growth and internal promotion, this role carries outstanding potential and benefits.

If you believe you have the right mix of skills, please send your full CV to Cliff Pinnell, Personnel Manager, Apricot Computers Limited, 3500 Parkside, Birmingham B37 7YS, or E-Mail direct on cliff@apricot.co.uk.

apricot
A MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
WE DISCRIMINATE ONLY ON ABILITY

Road Directorate

Engineers for overseas assignments

The Danish Road Directorate seeks highway engineers for overseas assignments in South America, Asia or Eastern Europe.

For ongoing and up-coming projects we seek engineers within the following fields:

- Pavement Management System
- Human Resource Development
- Construction Supervision
- Transport Economy
- Highway Engineering

Good working knowledge of either Spanish or English required.

Engineers with overseas experience and at least five years of professional experience will be preferred.

Please forward detailed CV to:

The Danish Road Directorate
International Department
Niels Juels Gade 13
DK-1020 Copenhagen K, Denmark
Fax +45 33 32 21 07

The Danish Road Directorate has currently overseas projects in Asia, Eastern Europe and South America within the transport sector. For the last twelve years, The Danish Road Directorate has carried out overseas projects in more than 25 countries all over the world.

GRANTS & DALVEY

PRODUCT DESIGNER

Grants & Dalvey is a young and expanding award winning Company based near Liverpool. We manufacture unique high quality gifts and accessories such as the Dalvey Telescope Cup and the Dalvey Voyage Clock, designed in stainless steel, selling worldwide to corporate mail order and retail markets.

The post of Product Designer is a new one. It is a stimulating challenge involving taking a product from concept to production, encompassing sourcing of new materials and brought in components, negotiating and liaising with suppliers, travelling and some general market research.

We are looking for someone who will co-ordinate and develop original ideas and have an interest in historical design, particularly of classic British products.

Candidates, who should have a proven experience, will need to be computer-literate and combine familiarity with manufacturing processes with an appreciation of sound commercial principles.

The Product Designer will report directly to the Managing Director. The post will be attractively remunerated and offers an excellent career opportunity.

Applications are invited in writing to Sir Patrick Grant of Dalvey Ltd, Grants & Dalvey, Alnham, Roxburgh, IV17 0XT.



PROJECT MANAGER - ENGINEERING

Sky Television, the leading pay-television broadcaster in the UK and Republic of Ireland, is currently seeking a Project Manager for the Engineering and Services Department.

The successful candidate will have extensive satellite television experience including a wide knowledge of Conditional Access systems and will have been previously involved in the management, planning & installation facilities.

Expertise in all aspects of television broadcast systems is required, along with experience in the play out of a number of programmes simultaneously involving the controlled insertion of a number of differing commercial and promotional streams.

Proficiency in the area of digital compression of commercial and programme material with storage and replay of the material from computer disc and server based technology and previous involvement in the implementation of data compression systems is essential.

If you meet the above criteria, please send your CV to: Tina Davis, Sky Television, 6 Costamare Business Park, Grant Way, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 5QD.

Sales Director

Packaging/Car - Package
£60K + Car, Board Potential

We are a well respected independent London based photographic and reprographic company utilising the very latest electronic equipment including Quantel Graphic Paintbox and Silicon Graphics. We have produced memorable work of the highest quality for a wide range of existing clients.

You are a dynamic determined person with outstanding qualities to bring to an equally dynamic determined young team. You recognise good quality work and have the ability to pass on that knowledge to existing and prospective clients. You will be expected to generate £450K-£500K of new business within the first 12 months. Your strategic excellence and your relevant skills will have a major impact on our firm. We aim to reward the right candidate well, and to offer an interesting future career.

To find out more send your C.V. to Box No 2634

Consultancy: Retail Financial Services

MSAP Limited has developed a new city office here in the UK insurance, pensions and real estate sector of the retail financial services industry. Growth of the consultancy services arm of the business presents real career opportunities for those who have broad experience in our sector, technical knowledge of the FIA/IFIA regulatory environment and a proven business vision. Experience will probably have been gained in the sector, but an experienced lawyer with client service experience would be considered. The consultant will support our business development activities and lead client consultancy projects from the front.

Please send your CV to Excursion Dock, 80 Wapping High Street, London E1 9NE or call on 071-488 2575 at any time to initiate discussion.

At a crossroads in your career?

Talk to David Huxford, if you want potential £25-£120K and you're ready for a challenge, we'll guide you to the right decision.

For more than 40 years we have been helping ambitious men and women, with experience of a senior level, find their real potential, or cope with redundancy, if you're committed to achieving:

- Promotion - A new job - A fresh start

Your original Consultant will provide:

- RESEARCH - assessment through recognised testing
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GET THAT JOB IN 1995!

BRITAIN'S LARGEST NETWORK OF OFFICES CAN HELP YOU ACCESS THE UNADVERTISED MARKET

Executives in the range £20k - £200k find new and better jobs. Contact a specialist at one of our centres of excellence for a free consultation. Special services for Lady Executives.

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Exeter (01392) 445 344
Glasgow (0141) 823 0871
Gulford (01483) 29 0898
Liverpool (0151) 478 0898
Maidstone (01622) 61 8898
Manchester (0161) 455 0898
Newcastle (0191) 415 0898
Oxford (01895) 798 400
S. Scotland (0121) 808 0898
Warwick (01926) 82 0898
Winchester (01962) 70 0898

Connaught
BRITAIN'S NUMBER ONE EXECUTIVE CAREER SERVICE
32 Savile Row, London W1X 1AG. Fax: (0171) 734 3820.

SALES AREA MANAGERS

Schools & Colleges
OTE 35K + Car

Bromcom Computers Plc., the innovative and British manufacturer of 'eams' Electronic Attendance Registration System is the market leader in the field of advanced technology for schools and colleges and now wishes to find a business expansion programme by appointing ambitious and already achieving Sales Area Managers in the following areas:

LONDON
MIDLANDS
SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN ENGLAND

Successful Candidates, who are unlikely to be less than 25 years of age, should be able to demonstrate excellent communication skills and an impressive track record in selling high value IT systems to Schools and Colleges, together with a driving ambition to succeed and higher than average dedication which will be needed in this challenging - but highly rewarding - career opportunity.

C.V. to Head of Sales Bromcom Computers Plc. 417-421 Bromley Road, Dagenham, Bromley, Kent, BR1 4PA.

ART DIRECTOR and DESK-TOP PUBLISHING DESIGNER

Japanese Advertising agency has vacancies for the following positions:

Art Director

To be responsible for design of advertisements and layouts in Japanese. Knowledge and experience of design work and fluency in spoken and written Japanese essential.

Desk Top Publishing (DTP) Designer

To be responsible for preparation and formatting of all documents. Knowledge and experience of DTP Designing and fluency in spoken and written Japanese is essential.

Good salary and benefits. Reply Box No 2665

TRAINEE BRANCH MANAGER

Due to expansion we require FOUR TRAINEE BRANCH MANAGERS aged 23 to 45 for the London and Kent areas.

- £25,000 OTE in your first year, £30,000 - £40,000 thereafter to Friday.
- Overtime travel.
- Full training provided.

Please send your C.V. to George Kelly, LINCOLN NATIONAL RESIDENT ARCADE HOUSE, 19-25 ARNOVILL STREET, LONDON, W1V 1AA

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It's probably because you don't know yourself. You're not doing what you're best at. Professional assessment of your abilities, resources and personality. Free brochure. 071-935 5482

Career Analysts Limited
Head Office, Dover House, 80 Gloucester Place, London W1
071-935 5482

A NEW SALES CAREER FOR 1995

MAIDSTONE, KENT

Not just a sales job but a career for an experienced sales person with a huge franchised company offering most prospects in Kent and the surrounding areas. Join our team with a package for £25,000 salary, share options and profit share.

IF YOU LIVE IN KENT OR SUSSEX, CALL ANY DAY AND LEAVE A MESSAGE. Next Day Ltd (Agency)
Tel 01580 892946

SHAPE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE

located at Casteau near Mons

Seeks applicants from NATO countries for the post of Senior Translator/Interpreter, NATO Grade LL-3 in its Linguistic Services.

Ref: ST 19

The following essential qualifications are required:

- Excellent proficiency in English at the level of a well-educated native speaker.
- Very good proficiency in French.
- Relevant university degree or equivalent professional qualification in the linguistic field.
- At least 5 years related experience.
- Ability to translate from French to English.
- Ability to interpret from English to French and vice versa in all modes.
- Willingness to use ADP systems.

The candidate selected will be offered an initial 3-year contract.

Salaries are net and competitive.

Fringe benefits include: family allowances, very complete health insurance coverage, pension scheme and expatriation allowances for non residents.

Applications quoting the above title and reference should be sent with detailed CV (non registered mail) postmarked not later than 4 weeks after the date of publication of this announcement to the following address:

Chief Recruitment
SHAPE - IHSC-HRM
B-7010 SHAPE
BELGIUM

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 071 481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:
071 782 7197

Two Senior Professionals - International Oil Industry

This Group is active in the international petroleum industry, with well developed activities in the Middle East and extensive refining, marketing and retailing activities throughout Europe.

Strategy Analyst

Based in London and travelling in Europe and the Middle East, you will be part of a team coordinating our long term European activities and business development with the parent company in the Middle East.

You will analyse new business opportunities mainly in the Middle East, but also within Europe, and will evaluate and prepare implementation in close cooperation with the Head Office in the Middle East.

You are a business graduate with a minimum of five years' oil industry experience from both supply and marketing. In particular, you are fluent in Arabic and have excellent written and oral communication skills.

A highly competitive package together with the opportunity to develop an international career is available.

Trader and Coordinator

Based in London and travelling in the Middle East you will be part of a small team trading crude and refined oil products in bulk on behalf of a major supplier in the Middle East.

You will deal with both long term contracts and spot and, although most activities are in sales, you will also cover shortages between our own supply and the demand from our retail sales activities.

You will also coordinate the activities of the Regional Sales Office in London with the Head Office for Sales and Supply in the Middle East, through extensive contacts on a local level.

You are a business graduate with a minimum of five years' oil industry experience, mainly in trading and supply. You are fluent in Arabic and have excellent written and oral communication skills.

A highly competitive package together with an opportunity to develop an international career in trading and supply is available.

In complete confidence, please telephone or write with CV to:

John Diack, Managing Director, Simpson Crowden Consultants Limited, 97/99 Park Street, London W1Y 3HA. Telephone: 0171-629 5909.

Simpson Crowden
CONSULTANTS

For the newly founded "Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau", located in Dessau the position of

Director

is to be filled.

The "Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau" is a public law foundation with legal capacity. Its purposes are to protect the heritage of the historical Bauhaus and make it known to the public as well as to contribute to the problems and structuring of today's human environment on the basis of the ideas and approaches of the historical Bauhaus.

To achieve this, the foundation works in the fields of landscape planning, urbanism, architecture, design, visual art and theatrical art and takes responsibility for collecting, preserving, researching and presenting records of both the development and the historical influence of the Bauhaus.

The director should be a personality able to lead the Bauhaus activities creatively, represent it in public in a convincing manner and continue the work already achieved by the Bauhaus. Completed tertiary studies in the areas named above and several years of relevant professional experience in a senior position as well as scholarly and artistic achievements in these areas will be of advantage to the application.

The position is to be occupied for a period of five years; re-application is possible. The salary will correspond to grade B5 of the BBesO (Federal Payment Scales).

Applications from women will be especially welcome. Disabled people will be preferred, all other qualifications being equal.

Chairperson of the Foundation Trustees
Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau
The Minister of Culture, Mr. Karl-Heinz Reck
Lessenowstrasse 12, D-39114 Magdeburg
Germany
Telephone: ++49-391-567-3100

bauhaus
DESSAU

Please address your application
by 28 February 1995 to the

PRESTIGE

Sales Executive £17-19K

Prestige is one of the fastest growing companies in the marketing and insurance market.

We are looking to recruit a Sales Executive with previous experience in the healthcare field who would work from our Surrey office.

The successful candidate would be responsible for developing business with social services departments and hospitals along with coordinating the marketing of our regional branches.

We offer a fully exposed company car, profit share scheme and health insurance.

Send your CV to Jonathan Brice at 40 The Broadway, Chesham, Surrey, SN8 8SD.

BRANCH MANAGER (2)

For well-established Japanese Property Company.

Candidates must have proven experience in Sales Management level, strong organisational and negotiation skills, proactive approach, Travel Leader, Degree certificate, fluent Japanese essential. Please send your cv in confidence to:

James Hazzard, The Tansil Group, 10, Albany Street, London, W1B 4AL.

SALES AGENTS

Required for all areas. Must be a major player in a highly competitive market.

EXCELLENT BENEFITS. Technical/Quality Director.

REQUIRED FOR MEDICAL DEVICE DISTRIBUTOR. Must have good knowledge of MEDICAL 9002 and the associated EN 4600 standard.

Send full C.V. to: P.O. Box 515, Kilmarnock, South Ayrshire, KA11 1BE. Applications received in strictest confidence. Reply Guaranteed.

All Box number replies should be addressed to:

BOX No. —
C/o The Times
Newspapers
P.O. BOX 5835,
Virginia Street,
London E1 9GA

Translator/English and Arabic Speech Writer

Egypt

A multi-national company based in Cairo seeks a highly talented linguist with direct operational experience in the international business arena.

The Position:

The role is dedicated to translating various documentation with a strong emphasis on developing and writing first-class speeches in both English and Arabic for the company's dynamic Managing Director.

The Candidate:

The candidate must have extensive knowledge of world economics, business trends, political movements and the interest to keep closely abreast with current affairs.

Preference will be given to those with business degrees and/or professional qualifications in translation. The ability to perform under pressure and meet deadlines is essential coupled with hard work and devotion to duty. Basic computer skills will be required for this position.

Please send full C.V. in confidence to the recruiting officer (010 20-2) 5701055/1009

Systems Development Opportunities

Our client has become a world leader in communications technology by providing the very highest levels and widest range of services. It is committed to using the best of leading edge technology to provide a high quality, cost effective range of products and services.

The market in which our client operates has become truly international, demanding global solutions in an increasingly competitive environment. Their determination to remain at the forefront of leading edge development and service provision has given rise to a requirement for a number of high calibre managers to be located at various sites in the South and East of England.

Programme Managers

Software Development and Systems Integration

The roles will be to establish and lead teams of highly qualified engineering professionals to deliver complex solutions on time and within budget. The positions will be strongly focused on delivery, managing all technical, financial and resourcing matters.

We wish to talk to successful managers with a background in engineering programme or project management. Educated to degree level, the emphasis will be on first class leadership skills, a strong commercial awareness and a track record of understanding requirements and delivering solutions. These attributes are likely to have been acquired in a systems house, hardware 'solutions' supplier or with a commercial software developer.

Senior Systems Designers

Exceptional Opportunities.

We also wish to talk to successful Systems Designers with a view to undertaking a variety of systems design activities, ranging from overall solution design to the detailed design of software subsystems. You will need a background in major systems development and integration and a thorough understanding of the complete development life cycle. Educated to at least first degree level, you will have worked on a variety of hardware platforms from mainframes through to client/server and UNIX based systems. You will in addition have at least eight years' experience of leading design teams, using structured methodologies and understand the technical and application trends in software and systems architectures. Knowledge of systems design and modelling at detailed level and experience of database technologies, communications networks or transaction processing systems, as well as development tools, are essential requirements.

These are senior positions with a world class company offering excellent career opportunities. Competitive packages in the region of £50,000 will be payable, depending upon experience and ability and will include car, an attractive range of benefits and relocation assistance where appropriate.

If you have the technical expertise, business and leadership skills to meet the high standards required for these positions send or fax your CV, clearly indicating the post of interest to you, together with details of your current remuneration, stating how you meet the requirements for the positions to:

pkS
PK SELECTION
International Search & Selection

Bernard Grant, PK Selection,
39 Floral Street, London WC2E 9DG.
Fax: 071 240 0386.

ART DIRECTOR and DESK-TOP PUBLISHING DESIGNER

Japanese Advertising agency has vacancies for the following positions:

Art Director

To be responsible for design of advertisements and leaflets in Japanese. Knowledge and experience of design work and fluency in spoken and written Japanese essential.

Desk Top Publishing (DTP) Designer

To be responsible for preparation and formatting of all documents, knowledge and experience of DTP Designing and fluency in spoken and written Japanese is essential.

Good salary and benefits. Reply Box No 2665

Prestigious Japanese Travel Company Requires: TOUR SUPERVISOR/MANAGER

To be responsible for advising clients on holidays and tours available, escorting clients both in the U.K. and abroad and providing Japanese commentary and information.

SALES AND PROMOTIONS MANAGERS

To work within the company's marketing department to develop new holiday packages, brochures and advertisements in Japanese.

Both positions require fluent Japanese speakers & offer excellent packages.

Please send applications to
Box No 2685
Times Newspapers PO Box 3553
1 Virginia Street, LONDON E1 9GA.

EXCITING INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

c. £20,000 + bens.

An international firm of Loss Adjusters has two exciting career opportunities for two graduates of either Economics, Engineering or a Business degree, to work in Latin America and Miami.

Candidates should be aged between 22-25 and be reasonably fluent in Spanish and/or Portuguese. The position will involve comprehensive hands-on development in the world of Loss Adjusting. Strong interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to rise to a challenging role with application and enthusiasm form the pre-requisites of these positions. Previous experience in a non-life insurance environment would be a definite advantage.

The initial appointment is for a duration of three years. If you are prepared to offer hard work and commitment in exchange for excellent career rewards with this prestigious market leader, please submit a comprehensive c.v. stating your current salary to Box No 2602, C/O The Times Newspaper, 1 Virginia St, London, E1 9GA.

Closing date: Monday 9th January, 1995.
Response to candidates selected for interview only.

SENIOR MANAGER

Our client, a market leader in the business of oil trading and marketing, is seeking a very experienced individual to head up a brand new department within the existing East European Division. You will need to source Crude Oil and Oil Products from CIS Countries and former republics of the USSR, by establishing and expanding relations between various East European refineries, arranging processing agreements, storage, transportation and later to concentrate on two areas of expansion - the Balkans and the two republics of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. The position will involve a great deal of travel between London, Alma Ata, Kiev and Minsk, and it will be a requirement that you spend part of the time in our client's Moscow office.

If you graduated more than 8 years ago and have since concentrated on developing the marketing of oil and related products within the Eastern Bloc countries and are now engaged at senior manager level within this industry, have the ability to converse and read technical documents in English, Russian and preferably Czech and possibly Serbo Croat as well, then our client would wish to hear from you. In return, you will be offered an attractive salary package with most of the usual benefits such a position would command. Please address your up-to-date c.v. with a hand-written covering letter, in the first instance, to:

Mrs Genevieve Fay, LWG Plc,
Queen Anne House, 11 The Green,
Richmond Upon Thames, Surrey, TW9 1PX.

SENIOR CONSULTANT/TEAM LEADER

European Software Services is a progressive software house with an extensive client portfolio. The continuing success of the company and its products has created an opportunity to expand the business and to evaluate new marketplaces. The successful applicant will be expected to play a major role in this expansion programme.

Holders will be expected to combine existing products and recommend and create both technical and marketing changes as well as developing new products for clients. We are looking for a unique and dynamic individual, educated to at least degree level with a proven track record and skills in DBASE III, 4GL, INGRESS, ORACLE, Windows, TCP/IP, ACCESS, NETWORKING, RDBMS, UNIX, DOS and VMS.

We require someone with considerable experience in a wide range of disciplines and it is unlikely that anyone under 30 will have developed the hands on skills and leadership experience that we look for in senior staff. The successful candidate will be rewarded with an attractive remuneration package so if you think you have the ability to benefit from this opportunity please forward your CV to:

European Software Services,
Falcon House, 16 Fernhill Road,
Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3JL.

CONTROLLER OF OPERATIONS

Salary £25,000 - £30,000

London's biggest most successful Community Club is undergoing expansion.

Applications are sought from professionals for the challenging position of overseeing the Club's operations.

This is a key role that requires an experienced, mature individual who has the ability to manage people and resources. You will ensure the smooth running of the Club and ensure that all services are of the highest quality. The successful candidate will be rewarded with an attractive remuneration package so if you think you have the ability to benefit from this opportunity please forward your CV to:

European Software Services,
Falcon House, 16 Fernhill Road,
Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3JL.

The closing date for applications is 31st December 1994.

Arabic Speaking General Manager - Automotive Company

Egypt

A successful and growing automotive company in Egypt, part of a multi-national group, requires a dynamic and experienced arabic speaking general manager to promote and consolidate all activities within the organisation.

- Reporting to the Chairman, the prime challenge for marketing and sales oriented executive, is to increase sales volume of a highly successful small car to a target of 10,000 units for 1995, add to existing service centres and spare parts units and develop new distribution networks.
- Aged 35-45 educated to degree level, preferably in a technical or accounting discipline, you will be an ambitious high achiever with a demonstrable track record of excellent management skills, financial abilities, sales and marketing performance, strategic planning and corporate development skills in the automotive business.
- Personal characteristics will include leadership qualities, coupled with drive, tenacity and an ability to motivate and inspire confidence at all levels. Exceptional personal commitment is mandatory for this high profile and rewarding position.

Please send full CV in confidence to the recruiting officer (010 20-2) 5701055/1009

CREME DE LA CREME

SUPER SECRETARIES

COMMUNICATIONS English Agency
Tel: 40 4000 for London & Int
Fax: 243 0001 071 281 0125

PART TIME VACANCIES

SEC/PA

For varied business domestic admin work in Notting Hill Gate. Flexible hours. Please Reply to Box No 2669 C/O Times Newspapers, PO Box 3553, 1 Virginia Street London

هكذا من الأصل

Chief Executive

£65,000

Gloucestershire Health is an integrated Family Health Services Authority and District Health Authority serving a population of 540,000 with a combined annual budget of £280m.

The two organisations have been joined within Gloucestershire Health for two years and our current Chief Executive, Peter Colclough, is now moving to become Chief Executive of the Plymouth and Torbay Health Commission early in the new year. We are seeking a new Chief Executive who will be able to lead the continuing development of Gloucestershire Health and continue our drive to improve the health of the people we serve and the quality of health care they receive.

The responsibilities involved demand a Board-level background of relevant experience, coupled with the vision and leadership qualities needed to deliver change in a high profile role. You should also have:

- clear strategic vision and the ability to deliver change and improvement in a complex environment
- the ability to develop alliances and relationships with a wide range of individuals and organisations inside and outside the NHS
- public presentation and other skills demanded of a high profile role in a highly visible public organisation.

For an information pack please contact Mark Godwin on 0452 300222 extension 2671.

Informal enquiries are welcome by Janet Trotter, Chair of the DHA, Chris Weaver, Chair of the FHSA, or Peter Colclough, the current post holder, on 0452 300222.

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 6th January 1995.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE HEALTH

PUBLIC & HEALTHCARE

Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government

up to £90,000 + Central London

You will be the Government's senior adviser on science and technology, attend or chair all the major government science committees and groups, and have direct access to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster as Minister for Science. This is a highly influential role helping to formulate government science policy and operating at the heart of Government. You will be Head of the Office of Science and Technology which acts as a focus for science, engineering and technology across government departments and you will be involved in international science issues in Europe and globally.

A role that offers the opportunity to be so widely influential naturally demands exceptional professional and personal qualities.

The first requirement is for a commitment to the importance of science engineering and technology as the driving force behind the nation's wealth and quality of life, and a broad interest in science policy making. You are likely to have a distinguished record in

science or engineering and be of considerable standing in the scientific or engineering community.

You will have proven managerial experience at a senior level with excellent analytical, interpersonal and representational skills and a clear understanding of the process of Government.

You will have vision, tenacity, the ability to deliver on time and to explain decisions cogently and unambiguously.

Salary will be up to £90,000. More may be available for an exceptional candidate. Appointment will be for 4-5 years initially and renewable, subject to performance.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 10th January 1995), please contact Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 1JB or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 or fax (0256) 846374/846660. Please quote ref: B2373.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



CABINET OFFICE

EAST MIDLANDS TRAINING AND ENTERPRISE COUNCILS' EUROPEAN FORUM

REGIONAL EUROPEAN OFFICER

The TECs of the East Midlands are committed to working regionally with local partners to maximise the opportunities and minimise the threats from membership of the European Union for our region.

The TEC's Regional European Officer provides strategic support to the TECs on European training and enterprise issues, including the structural funds Objectives 2 and 5b, the Community Initiatives, Leonardo and Socrates and so on.

Of equal importance, the officer provides the focus for the regional coordination of the TECs' bids for ESF Objective 3 funding.

The successful candidate will have worked for some time on European issues, will have an extensive knowledge of the Union's institutions and will also be able to demonstrate experience of the management of the structural funds.

The post requires an excellent communicator, networker and team player.

The post is offered on a two year fixed term contract, with an annual salary of up to £30,000, at a flexible location - one of the East Midlands TECs.

Apply in writing with a C.V. by Wednesday 4 January 1995 to:

Lindsay Jackson, Regional European Adviser, East Midlands TECs, Edwinstowe House, High Street, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG21 9PR

Job description and further details are available from Lindsay Jackson on 01623 825206.

Interviews will be held on 18 January 1995

The TECs of the East Midlands are: Southern Derbyshire, North Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Greater Nottingham and North Nottinghamshire.

Strategic Services Department

CONSUMER AND MONEY ADVICE CENTRE

Money Adviser

£16,800 to £21,057 (inc LW) (Ref: ST/1/5100) (dependant upon experience and qualifications).

The Consumer and Money Advice Centre is based in purpose built, air conditioned premises at 376 Watworth Road, London SE17. The Centre is well served by public transport and has access for disabled people.

This is a Charter Mark award winning service.

We need an experienced person to be responsible for the provision of money advice; including income maximisation, debt counselling, negotiation and advocacy.

Applicants should have a minimum of 3 years' advice experience and at least 1 year's full-time money advice experience in a voluntary or paid capacity.

The appointment is subject to the department's career progression scheme and offers flexible working hours. The appointment will be on a fixed term contract.

For an application form and job description, please contact: Estella Nuro on 071 525 7289 or Zella March on 071 525 7186, or write to them at the Strategic Services Department, 27 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB. Please quote the reference.

Closing date: 12th January 1995.

An Equal Opportunities Employer.

Applications are welcome from all Southwark residents.

As part of our Health First programme, we operate a No Smoking policy.



Southwark Council

SOUTH Durham HEALTH CARE NHS TRUST

HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You will have the opportunity to contribute to the development and operation of the local NHS Trust providing community and mental health services to the population of South Durham.

Living and/or working within the south of County Durham, you should be able to offer considerable commercial experience, preferably from a financial environment, combined with a commitment to local public service.

For an informal discussion contact either John Parsons, Chairman, or Peter Stewart, Chief Executive, Tel: (0369) 606811.

For an information pack please contact Rachel Thomas, Human Resource Department, Tel: (0369) 606811 ext 223.

If you are interested, and can give at least 20 days per year to the role, please send your CV to The Chairman, South Durham Health Care NHS Trust, Belmont, Princess Street, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL14 7BB. Closing date: 17.1.95.

A panel of the Board will select a shortlist of candidates for submission to the Regional Health Authority.

THE TRAFFORD PARK MANUFACTURING INSTITUTE

ICI • GEC ALSTHOM
BRITISH AEROSPACE
SIEMENS • FMC • NIS

THE UNIVERSITIES OF MANCHESTER
AND SALFORD WITH THE
OPEN UNIVERSITY

INDUSTRY'S NEEDS MET BY THE UNIVERSITIES

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Located in modern facilities in the industrial heartland of Manchester, the Institute will assist companies to rise to the challenge of continuously enhancing their competitiveness. Its output will be the provision of purpose designed programmes of education and training, with a strong element of innovation, leading edge skills and shared experience.

The essence of the role is to help industry define its needs and then to deliver relevant and innovative programmes. As Director of Education and Training you will join a small highly motivated team operating at the gateway between industry and Higher Education.

You are likely to be an ambitious manufacturing professional

who understands the vital role of science and technology in the culture of manufacturing and have experience in education and training. The person appointed will be among the candidates for the post of Chief Executive when this is considered at a later stage.

A competitive remuneration and benefits package will be negotiated in the range of £30,000 to £50,000.

Please send a comprehensive CV with a covering letter explaining your interest and suitability, to: Howgate Sable & Partners, Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens, Manchester M3 2LF. Tel: 061-839 2000, Fax: 061-839 0064, quoting ref: S.T.1110.F.



Howgate Sable

SEARCH AND SELECTION EXECUTIVES AND INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

THE BRITISH LIBRARY

DIRECTOR

Research and Development Department

£31k - £47k

The British Library seeks a Director for its Research and Development Department. The Department's purpose is to further the improvement of library and information services in the UK and specifically to assist in achieving the Library's aims by keeping it in the forefront of professional and international developments.

It has wide-ranging interests which include the generation, storage, transfer and use of information. In addition to funding research and development projects, the Department administers grants to help conserve, catalogue and purchase collections of national importance. It also manages the Library's corporate research programme, its international relations and consultancy services, and special initiatives for the Department of National Heritage.

Reporting to the Chief Executive the new Director will also work closely with the Department of National Heritage in developing the new Library and Information Commission which will be set up in January 1995 to advise the Government on library and information matters.

The Director has a leading role to play within the Library and on national and international stages. Candidates will require an excellent knowledge of the UK library and information science community, highly developed analytical and communication skills, together with leadership and personnel management skills.

The world's leading resource for scholarship, research and innovation

The salary range is £31k - £47k. The starting point will depend on experience and qualifications.

For an application form telephone: 0171-412 7331

Closing date for receipt of applications is 13 January 1995

THE BRITISH LIBRARY is an equal opportunity employer

Northumberland Contracting, following recent success in Compulsory Competitive Tendering and Quality Assurance, are seeking to appoint a

General Manager

for their Transport Division.

Salary c 26K plus car, plus benefits

You must be an innovative, pro-active manager with the ability to operate in an entrepreneurial environment and lead the Transport Division into the year 2000. Your managerial experience must consist of mixed fleet workshops and maintenance, and leased car operations. The ability to motivate, manage and develop people is essential, as is experience of negotiation at all levels and management of turnover in excess of £5 million.

You must be educated to A level standard or equivalent, possess Associate Membership of the Institute of Road Transport Engineers and a current driving licence.

Knowledge of Compulsory Competitive Tendering and Quality Assurance Systems would be an advantage.

For an application pack contact the Personnel, Payroll and Training Section (0670 533405), Contract Support Division, quoting ref: TR2. For an informal discussion please contact Beverley Elder, Personnel, Payroll and Training Manager (0670 533440). Closing date for applications is 9 January 1995.

Preliminary interviews for short-listed candidates will be held on 17 January followed by interview with elected members on 3 February 1995.

DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

One Year Fixed Term - Reviewable

£50,000 plus Lease Car

The Council has recently restructured its Housing Service and we need a Director with the skills, experience and vision to lead and coordinate our decentralised housing service as we strive to improve services to tenants and to meet the challenge of CCT. Maidstone has a population of 138,000 and a housing stock of 7,500 properties.

Applicants will have attained degree standard and have a final management / professional qualification together with significant post qualification experience at a senior level in Local Government or other related area. Knowledge of Local Government Housing Finance is essential.

The post is for a fixed term of 1 year and its retention will be reviewed at that time.

Application form and details are available from the Personnel Services Manager, London House, 5-11 London Road, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8HR. Telephone (0622) 602002. Applicants wishing to discuss the appointment should contact the Chief Executive, David Makepeace on (0622) 602018.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 4th January 1995. Interviews will be held on 16th/17th January 1995.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
ENCOURAGEMENT OF JOB SHARING



NEWS

Tory support lowest ever recorded

The Government is more unpopular than any in polling history while Labour has achieved a record lead over the Conservatives.

In the latest MORI poll for *The Times*, Labour support has risen to 61 per cent, compared with 55 per cent last month. Backing for the Tories has fallen by two points over the past month to a new low of 22 per cent. Two-thirds of those questioned by MORI believe that Labour is ready to form the next government. **Pages 1 and 12**

Bid to rekindle confidence in Britain

The Government is to organise an unprecedented high-profile conference early next year to rekindle public confidence in Britain's greatness. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will take the lead in trumpeting British strengths. **Page 1**

Air crash inquiry

Air-crash investigators began examining the wreckage of a Boeing 737 that crashed into a wood after narrowly missing a Coventry housing estate. All five crew members died. **Pages 1 and 3**

Premiums may fall

Home insurance premiums are likely to fall after the Halifax, the country's largest building society, cut the cost of building-related policies. **Pages 1 and 23**

Judge criticises CSA

The troubled Child Support Agency suffered further criticism yesterday when a High Court judge questioned whether it gave enough weight to children's welfare in making its assessments. **Page 2**

Farmhouse murder

A wealthy widow found murdered in her North Yorkshire farmhouse was probably killed for the contents of her handbag, police said. **Page 5**

Diploma shelved

Plans for a new school-leavers' qualification, hailed by ministers as a "passport to the world of work" just seven months ago, has been quietly shelved. **Page 5**

Air travel disruption

Travellers to Spain could have their plans ruined by a pilots' strike over Christmas. Travellers to Greece and France may also face delays. **Page 6**

Join the Christmas fun — or else

The mayor of Moscow has ordered every shopkeeper in the city to take part in Christmas celebrations by illuminating shop fronts — or to face a fine. The *Moscow Times* said of his decision: "Perhaps a lifetime of choreographed May Days and Great October Revolution anniversary parades has left a mark too deeply ingrained to be wiped away." **Page 7**

Exodus from Grozny

A human tragedy was unfolding in the breakaway republic of Chechnya as thousands of refugees fled fighting around Grozny, the capital. **Page 7**

Ceasefire hopes

UN officials scrambled to capitalise on the Bosnia-wide ceasefire brokered by Jimmy Carter as observers questioned the price paid to bring the rebels back to the negotiating table. **Page 8**

Berlusconi pledge

Silvio Berlusconi prolonged the agony of the demise of his Government yesterday, telling parliament that Italy faces an early general election if MPs vote him out of office. **Page 9**

Guard for Gingrich

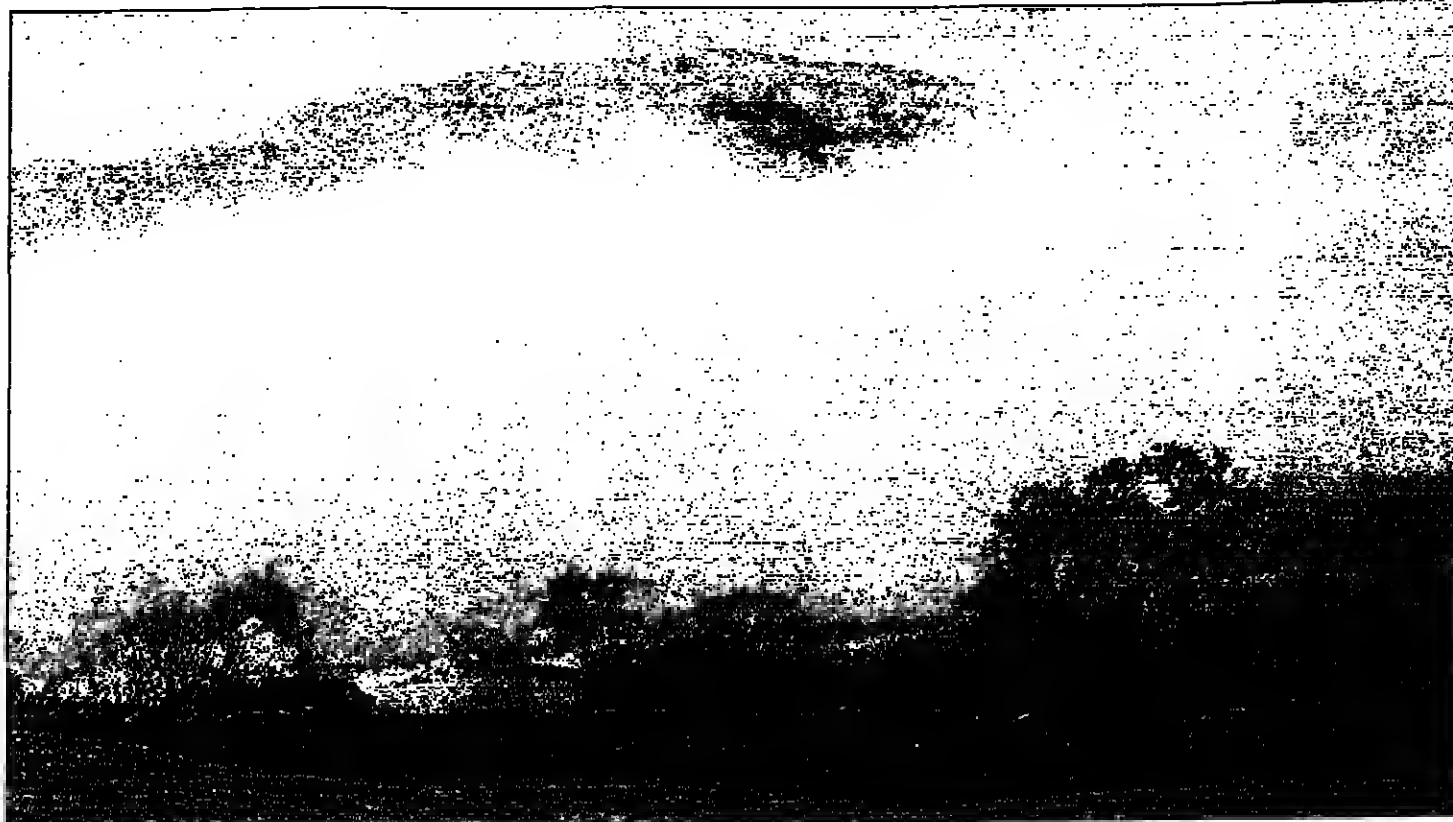
Newt Gingrich, the outspoken and highly controversial Republican, has received several death threats and is to be given unprecedented security after he becomes Speaker of the House. **Page 30**

£1.2bn fraud fines

The European Commission yesterday imposed record farm fraud fines of £1.2 billion on EU member states. Britain was fined £2.5 million. **Page 7**

Winnie Mandela back

Winnie Mandela completed her rehabilitation in the eyes of black voters when she was re-elected to the national executive committee of the ANC. **Page 7**



In the bleak midwinter: early morning mist blankets a Peak District valley just after dawn yesterday, the shortest day of the year

BUSINESS

Bankruptcy hearing: Robert Montague, flamboyant founder of the Tiphook container leasing group, resigned as chief executive yesterday ahead of a court hearing at which he is due to be declared bankrupt. **Page 23**

Tees: The Government has appointed receivers to take over the affairs of a Training and Enterprise Council, the first time that one of the private sector-led bodies which deliver government-funded training in Britain has gone into receivership. **Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 12.3 points to close at 3070.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 80.3 to 80.2 after a fall from \$1.5600 to \$1.5597 and from DM2.4523 to DM2.4492. **Page 26**

SPORT

Cricket: Time is running out for Philip Tufnell, England's maverick spin bowler, to reward the loyalty shown to him during a stormy career. **Page 44**

Football: The Premier League has acknowledged the need for a permanent watchdog to guard against the allegations of sleaze that have beset the game. **Page 44**

Sliding: Alberto Tomba won his fourth World Cup slalom race of the season. Sabina Panzanini completed an Italian double by winning a giant slalom. **Page 40**

Yachting: Christophe Auguin won the second leg of the BOC Challenge round-the-world race in record time despite spending two days virtually becalmed. **Page 39**

FEATURES

Our woman in Paris: Joanna Pitman on how an Englishwoman became a secret correspondent for *The Times*. **Page 10**

Body and mind: Step forward: Why has science paid so little attention to the human foot? **Page 11**

Books: Oxford Anglicans: The movement that transformed the Church of England. **Page 34**

Travel: False savings: Travellers may find that discount holidays are not the bargain they expect. **Page 38**

TOMORROW

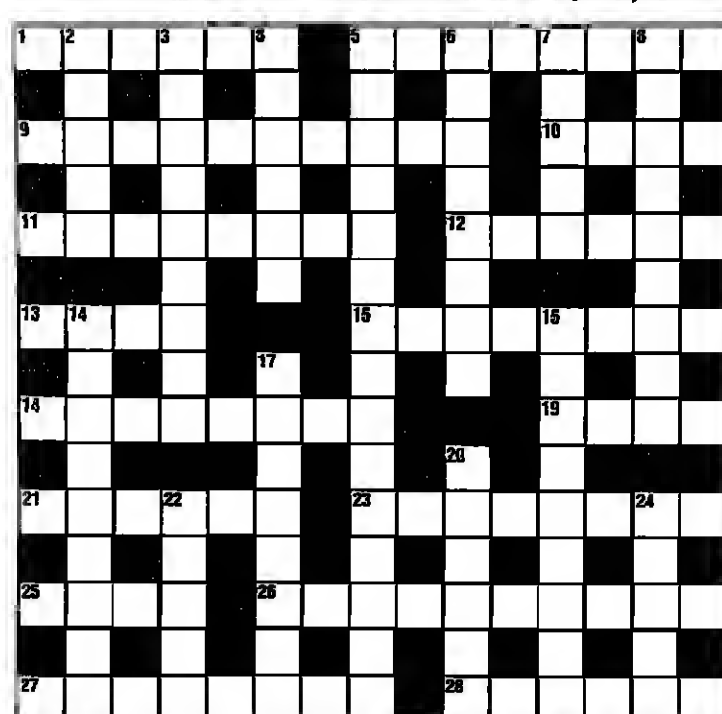
IN THE TIMES

THE RIGHT NOTES
Is car singing a dying art?
Giles Coren ventures into song

STAGE TO SCREEN
The latest chapter in Hollywood's love affair with the theatre

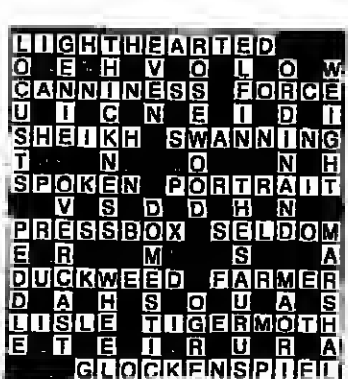


THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,732



- ACROSS**
- More work? It would be ideal (6)
 - Skilfully holding back confusion in meeting (8)
 - Company director — one involved with Paris and Rome (10)
 - Job centre in Acton receiving request (4)
 - Drink produced under pressure swallowed by one's press officer (8)
 - Extreme changes involved if Maoist turns to this (6)
 - Edward has to be pulled from fast-running river (4)
 - Drawing instruments, such as rulers? (8)
 - Religious writer composed misal, in part (8)
 - Points made with needles (4)
 - African pair of black monarchs (6)
- DOWN**
- A unique ship? That's a joke (3-5)
 - River? Hardly! (4)
 - Daily post sorted in Irish depot in (10)
 - Gunman being exposed in the Sun? (8)
 - He pictured peasants in the grass (6)
 - Measures how long this publication is (5)
 - Depicting characters in play, or art (9)
 - Old Roman money is repeatedly turning up here in Italy (6)
 - One way to be cool if in top-class group (3,12)
 - Second drink I have makes me frisky (8)
 - This joint centre of Paris to outskirts, initially (5)
 - Ways artist breaks law in ultimate provocation (4,5)
 - Bill holds city seat (9)
 - School's head has girl brought in to face expulsion (9)
 - Tory politician runs into trouble with dailies (8)
 - Show improvement with respect to criminal record (6)
 - Unworthy of English in setback (5)
 - Pick hat up and finally leave (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,731



Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702
Dorset, Dorset & Dorset 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wilt, Gloucestershire, Somerset 705
Berkshire, Oxford, Oxford 706
Beds, Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708
West Mid & Shrop & Cheshire 709
Shrop, Hereford & Wrexham 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincoln & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
N.W. England 716
W & S. Wales 717
N.E. England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S.W. Scotland 720
W. Central Scotland 721
Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders 722
E. Central Scotland 723
Grampian & E. Highlands 724
N.W. Scotland 725
Galashiels, Orkney & Shetland 726
N. Ireland 727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks
Area within M25 731
Essex, Hertford, Bedford, Bucks, Berks, Chesh 732
Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hants 733
M25 London Orbital only 734
Bristol 735
Birmingham 736
Barnsley 737
Barnsley 738
Barnsley 739
Barnsley 740
Barnsley 741
Barnsley 742
Barnsley 743
Barnsley 744
Barnsley 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 11.0 (52°); lowest day temp: Avebury, Wiltshire, 2.0 (36°); highest rainfall: Wilt, Hereford, and Shrop, 0.28in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 6.9h.

FORECAST

General: Scotland will have a frosty start with fog, dense in places, lingering in Clyde Valley. Becoming brighter with sunny intervals. Cloud and rain spreading to northern areas in afternoon and evening.

Northern Ireland will have a dull start with frost and fog. Becoming brighter, then clouding over later.

Many places in England and Wales will start foggy and fog may linger all day in a few areas. It should be dry, except for a few showers near the east coast. Otherwise, becoming brighter.

London, Central S. England, E. England, Channel Isles, S. W. England, S. Wales, N. Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, N. E. Scotland, Borders, S. W. Scotland: frosty start with fog in places, becoming brighter with sunny periods, frost, fog returning in evening. Winds light variable, becoming southerly. Max 6C (43F).

S. E. England, E. Anglia: misty, dull

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm	6 pm to 12 am	12 am to 5 am	5 am to 9 am	9 am to 12 pm	12 pm to 5 pm	5 pm to 9 pm	9 pm to 12 am
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Abertawe	8.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1

These are Tuesday's figures

ABROAD

Algeria	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria	Algeria
14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5

MOON MOODS



Changes to the chart below from noon: high H will drift eastwards with very little change; low R will drift east and start to fill; complex low M will fill slowly in situ

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.58	6.8	4.31	6.8	London Bridge	1.18	8.7	1.37	8.9
Abertawe	3.45	4.0	3.51	4.1	Abertawe	1.05	8.2	1.24	8.5
Abertawe	3.45	4.0	3.51	4.1	Abertawe	1.05	8.2	1.24	8.5
Abertawe	3.45	4.0	3.51	4.1	Abertawe	1.05	8.2	1.24	8.5
Abertawe	3.45	4.0	3.51	4.1	Abertawe	1.05	8.2	1.24	8.5
Abertawe	3.45	4.0	3.51	4.1	Abertawe	1.05	8.2	1.24	8.5
Abertawe	3.45	4.0	3.51	4.1	Abertawe	1.05	8.2	1.24	8.5
Abertawe	3.45	4.0	3.51	4.1	Abertawe	1.05	8.2	1.24	8.5
Abertawe	3.45	4.0	3.51	4.1	Abertawe	1.05	8.2	1.24	8.5
Abertawe	3.45	4.0	3.51	4.1	Abertawe	1.05	8.2	1.24	8.5

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises	Sun sets	London 5.54 pm to 8.05 am	London 5.54 pm to 8.05 am
8.04 am	3.54 pm	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am
8.04 am	3.54 pm	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am
8.04 am	3.54 pm	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am
8.04 am	3.54 pm	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am
8.04 am	3.54 pm	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am
8.04 am	3.54 pm	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am
8.04 am	3.54 pm	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am
8.04 am	3.54 pm	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am
8.04 am	3.54 pm	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am	Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 8.14 am

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

What I wrote and how my predictions turned out



BOOKS 34, 35

Another aspect of the genius of Michelangelo



SPORT 39-44

Gooch speaks out against counties' recruitment plans

GEOFF BROWN ON ALL THE NEW FILMS Arts 31-33

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY DECEMBER 22 1994

Receiver appointed to run South London TEC

By Philip Bassett and Ross Tremain

THE Government has appointed receivers to take over the affairs of a training and enterprise council — the first time that one of the private sector-led bodies that deliver Government-funded training in Britain has gone into receivership.

Ministers and leaders of the 82 TECs in England and Wales, a key feature of the Government's drive

to bring private sector market disciplines to bear on public funding for training, said the failure of South Thames TEC did not imply difficulties for other TECs.

Labour immediately called for the affair to be investigated by the Commons' Public Accounts Committee. Receivers from Grant Thornton, the accountants, last night arrived at the headquarters of the TEC to take over its running after being called in by the Department of Employment. It is thought to have lost more than £2 million over the last nine months.

The department said it had taken the decision because the TEC "had major financial difficulties including liabilities to the department and others which exceeded its assets."

Scott Barnes and Allan Griffiths, joint administrative receivers, are believed to have been on standby for several days prior to their appointment yesterday. Staff were

told of the receivership by Mr Barnes after he arrived at the TEC's offices in Great Dover Street yesterday with a team of accountants. More meetings will be held today.

Mr Barnes said: "We expect to spend the couple of days before Christmas understanding how the business works and taking control." He said he was in discussions with officials at the Department of Employment about the provision of interim funds necessary to enable

the TEC to continue trading. The receivers said the department had concluded the TEC was likely to trade at a loss "for some time."

The TEC, which has about 170 employees, is a private company contracted to the department to deliver Government training programmes and business support in the high unemployment London areas of Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich.

The TEC's budget this year is about £41 million from the Employment Department, plus a further £2 million from the Department of Trade. Ministers confirmed last night that its losses this year ran into millions, with prospects of the same next year. James Paice, Employment Minister, told *The Times* the main problem was "very weak financial management", with the TEC unable to monitor payments from the department to training providers and trainees.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3070.4	(+12.3)
Yield	4.25%	
FT-SE All share	1519.48	(+4.74)
Nikkei	19340.57	(-8.31)
Dow Jones	3808.57	(+41.72)
S&P Composite	451.08	(+3.98)

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Yield	7.84%	(7.85%)

3-month Interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Life long gilt	103	(102 1/4)

New York	1.5595	(1.5605)
London	1.5601	(1.5601)
DM	1.4204	(1.4217)
FF	5.4629	(5.4650)
SF	2.0882	(2.0738)
Yen	155.21	(155.38)
S Index	85.2	(85.3)

London	1.5709	(1.5701)
DM	1.3277	(1.3280)
SF	100.29	(100.17)
Yen	83.4	(83.5)

Tokyo close Yen 100.22		
Brent 15-day (Mar)	\$18.00	(\$15.95)
Gold		
London close	\$382.20	(\$381.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Montague quits Tiphook as personal bankruptcy beckons

By Jon Ashworth

ROBERT Montague, the flamboyant founder of the Tiphook container leasing group, resigned as chief executive yesterday before a court hearing at which he is due to be declared bankrupt. His demise follows a drawn-out battle with bankers over personal loans estimated at £30 million, and adds his name to the long list of fallen Eighties tycoons.

Mr Montague, 46, who was paid £1.3 million to be at the helm of Tiphook and donated generously to Conservative Party funds, is expected to be declared bankrupt at Oxford County Court this morning on petition from the Royal Bank of Scotland. He wrote to fellow directors at Central Transport Rental Group (CTR), as Tiphook is now known, yesterday, informing them that he would not be defending the bankruptcy petition, and announcing his resignation.

Ian Clubb, chairman of CTR, will take on the additional role of chief executive. The company said it regretted the "personal circumstances" that had forced Mr Montague's resignation.

Mr Montague said in a statement: "All of my working life has been devoted to this company and it will be a terrible blow to leave it. Fellow shareholders will know that I was determined to stay in the bad times and help to restore the company's fortunes. It is now clear that I shall not be allowed to do so."

Mr Montague had been battling to reach an agreement with his bankers over extensive personal debts. Today's hearing relates to a writ for £2.3 million issued by Royal Bank of Scotland in September. A second bankruptcy petition, served by Barclays Bank, was due to be heard early in the new year. Mr Montague had hoped to persuade creditors to agree to an individual voluntary arrangement as an alternative to bankruptcy.

Ian Knight and Peter Welborn, of Knight, Frank & Rutley, were yesterday appointed receivers to the Montague family home, the 1,300-acre Pusey estate in Oxfordshire. They were acting

on instructions from Barclays, which holds a charge over the estate in relation to an £8 million mortgage. Mr Montague bought Pusey House, a Georgian mansion, and its accompanying land, from Sir Simon Hornby, former chairman of WH Smith, in 1990, and has spent a considerable sum on renovations, including the installation of an indoor swimming pool.

Commerzbank, which reportedly has £15 million in loans outstanding with Mr Montague, is believed to have a charge over a 139ft yacht, *September Blue*, used by the Montague family but owned by a company registered in the Channel Islands. The yacht, moored in the south of France, is for sale, at \$11.5 million.

The shakeout at the former Tiphook began in February, when five directors resigned and Mr Montague stepped down as chairman after announcing pre-tax losses of £180 million. He was awarded a huge share option package as an incentive to turn the company round.

The company said yesterday that he would not receive compensation for loss of office, and had lost the right to the options. He remained entitled to a payment of £250,000 relating to the sale of the core container business this year. He is likely to forfeit three million shares in CTR, valued at tens of millions of pounds at the height of the company's fortunes, but worth barely £1 million today.

Shareholders were angry that Mr Montague continued to hold a senior position at the company at a time when profits had collapsed. They were also unhappy about payments of £2.7 million made to four of the departing directors as compensation for loss of office.

Mr Montague, who is married for the third time and has six children, was one of the most flamboyant businessmen of the Eighties. He travelled by chauffeur-driven Bentley, hosted lavish champagne receptions, and used a Hawker Siddeley 125 corporate jet, leased by Tiphook and based at Oxford airport.

Shares in CTR fell 3p at 32p.



One of the most flamboyant businessmen of the Eighties, Robert Montague, with Silke Kruze, his third wife.

Only 19 new names sign up

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

ONLY 19 new names have signed up to join Lloyd's of London next year, while 2,652 names are pulling out of underwriting in the insurance market, the corporation revealed yesterday.

A further 47 existing names who opted not to underwrite in 1994 are resuming underwriting next year. Conversely, 28 new corporate members, writing on a limited liability basis, have joined for the 1995 underwriting year.

Lloyd's said yesterday that the market's total capacity for 1995 would be £10.2 billion, down from £10.9 billion in the

current year. Capacity provided by individual names has shrunk from £9.3 billion in 1994 to £7.8 billion in 1995, but much of this has been offset by corporate capital members, whose contribution has increased from £1.6 billion to £2.4 billion. As a result, the individual names' contribution to the market's total has dropped from 85 per cent to 77 per cent.

A total of 3,928 names resigned from underwriting in the 1992 year of account. A further 1,750 pulled out of underwriting the next year, followed by 1,312 for the 1994

year of account. Of the 19 new names, eight are working names and the youngest is 21.

Meanwhile, two names' action groups won important court victories yesterday. More than 250 Lloyd's names on Gooda Walker syndicate 387 won £80 million in damages in a High Court ruling.

In a separate case, almost 1,000 Merrett names managed to overturn a High Court ruling that barred them from taking legal action on the ground they were too late. The names — the so-called early joiners — joined the Merrett syndicates before 1984.

Heseltine clears way for Halifax-Leeds merger

By Anne Ashworth, Personal Finance Editor

MICHAEL HESELTINE, President of the Board of Trade, has given a swift go-ahead to the £50 billion merger of the Halifax and Leeds building societies, after a recommendation from Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

The decision, which was welcomed by both societies, comes less than a month after the announcement of the engagement between the two Yorkshire-based mutuals.

Although the OFT denied the ruling had been made with any undue haste, or under pressure from the institutions concerned, the speed brought a protest from Jack Cunningham, Labour's trade spokesman. Derek Fatchett, Labour MP for Leeds Central, and Alice Mahon, Labour

MP for Halifax, last week urged Sir Bryan to refer the merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on public interest and market share grounds.

Dr Cunningham expressed surprise at the timing of the statement by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), made the day after Parliament rose for its Christmas recess.

He said: "This is an astonishing way to announce a huge decision about the future of two organisations which, when merged, will have a 25 per cent share of the mortgage market and a financial relationship with 45 per cent of the households in the country. It is extraordinary, given the scale of these operations, that the OFT and the DTI were able to make up their minds so quickly. Now

we will be seeking assurances on the combined societies' ability to deliver on its promises about customer service and employment."

A DTI spokesman said that the deal did not involve any significant competition or public interest concerns.

Permission must now be received from the Building Societies Commission and the members of both societies. The issue will be put to the vote in March 1995. To be passed, it needs the assent of a majority of 75 per cent of those members voting. A separate resolution for borrowers requires a simple majority of those voting. If these majorities are gained, the deal then goes forward for consideration by the commission.

Pennington, page 25

Burton grants board two million options

By Susan Gilchrist

BURTON, the high street fashion group, has granted four directors more than two million share options in the past year, according to the company's annual report.

The biggest beneficiary is Andrew Higginson, the group's newly appointed finance director, who was granted 1.25 million share options at an exercise price of 50p. With the share price now at 68p, Mr Higginson is sitting on a notional profit of £153,000.

Stuart Rose, chief executive of Burton's, Dorothy Perkins and Evans, was granted 774,000 options, while Terry Green, chief executive of Debenhams and Top Shop/Top Man, received 250,000.

John Hoerner, the group chief executive, was granted a further 32,000 options

bringing his total number to 3.5 million. However, he received a pay cut during the year. His total remuneration package, including bonus, fell 20 per cent to £597,000 from £739,000. But he could make up the difference by exercising the first tranche of his options. It becomes exercisable from Christmas Eve when he can cash in 2.27 million options from that date at an exercise price of 36.2p. At the current share price, this would give him a profit of almost £730,000.

Mr Green and Mr Rose can also exercise 552,000 and 898,000 share options respectively from Christmas Eve.

Burton enjoyed a jump in pre-tax profits to £41.1 million in the year to September 3, from £16.3 million previously, helped by a large profit on property disposals.

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Trade gap outside EU narrows to £361m

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S trade deficit with countries outside the European Union narrowed in November to £361 million from £420 million in October, partly reflecting a turnaround in oil trade.

Excluding oil and erratics, which gives the most accurate picture of underlying trends, the deficit shrank to £293 million from £390 million in October. This was the smallest shortfall since January 1988. Britain's trade in oil turned around from a £66 million deficit in October to a surplus of £17 million last month.

One of the most notable

features of November's trade figures was that import volumes appear to have begun to recover. On a three-month to three-month comparison, export volumes grew per cent, while import volumes were up only 2 per cent.

However, Hoare Govett noted that import growth has been negative for the past six months but is now on a firmly upward path. Import volumes are now growing at their fastest rate since February.

Exports continue to grow more strongly, suggesting that the trade deficit will continue to narrow. In the latest three months, non-EU export volumes were up 7.9 per cent, compared with a year ago. Even healthier are exports to the EU, which were up 19 per cent in the third quarter, compared with a year ago.

The other positive feature of yesterday's figures was a sharp rise in the import of semi-manufactured goods, an indicator of further strong growth in manufacturing output in the months ahead, according to Jonathan Loynes, of HSBC Greenwell.

The minutes of the monthly monetary meeting on November 2 were published separately yesterday and confirmed that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, had been close to recommending a rise in interest rates at that meeting. Rates were actually raised after the subsequent meeting on December 7.

Mr George made it clear in his testimony to the Treasury Select Committee this month, after rates had been raised, that the case had been finely balanced the previous month. Because of this, the minutes contained nothing to surprise the markets.

At the November 2 meeting, the Governor said that rates would probably need to rise before very long, but that he was inclined to wait a little to see whether there were clearer signs that the rate of expansion was easing off or how conflicting wage and price pressures developed.

The Chancellor agreed that at that stage, citing the somewhat mixed economic indicators. He noted that manufacturing industry was doing well, but that consumers remained cautious.

In the event, rates were raised on the day after the Government's defeat over VAT on fuel. In his testimony, Mr George insisted that the rate rise was not influenced by the uncertainty engendered in the markets because of political events and that a rate rise had been on the cards anyway. Yesterday's minutes confirmed this.



Abbey National's 680 branches hope to raise more than £100,000 for Childline, the charity headed by Esther Rantzen (pictured with Lord Tugendhat, Abbey National's chairman), and beat the total of £96,000 donated last year by staff and customers

Electricity regulator accused of helping Trafalgar over bid

By ERIC REGULY

JACK CUNNINGHAM, the Shadow Trade Minister, has accused Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, of giving helpful advice to Trafalgar House on its planned hostile takeover of Northern Electric. The accusation came after Swiss Bank Corporation, Trafalgar's adviser, admitted that Professor Littlechild said it would be easier for him to consider a bid if there were a "tangible benefit for the consumer".

The regulator made his comment last month during a private meeting with Swiss Bank representatives. Trafalgar later decided it would offer a £20 rebate to each Northern customer if it wins the company. The £12 billion bid, which Northern rejected as "wholly inadequate", was launched on Monday.

Dr Cunningham questioned Professor Littlechild's

impartiality in a letter sent yesterday to Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade. "Is this proper conduct for the regulator?" he said. "Under which of his responsibilities does he advise companies engaged in hostile takeovers of regional electricity companies?"

Both the regulator's office and Swiss Bank admit that Professor Littlechild came up with the idea of a "tangible benefit". But they insist he never suggested what form it would take. "It would be totally wrong to say that he entered into any negotiations regarding any consumer benefit," Brian Keelan, the Swiss Bank corporate finance managing director, who attended the meeting, said. "He merely signalled that a tangible consumer benefit would be an important element."

Separately, Dr Cunningham

said he would like the regulator's opinion on the proposed £20 rebate itself. "If he believes Northern Electric customers were paying too much for their electricity, why didn't he say so before?"

Dr Cunningham asked Mr Heseltine to "urgently clarify" the role of the regulator. Trafalgar House, which has sold one of its remaining luxury hotels, the Stafford in London, for £16 million to a subsidiary of Daniel Thwaites, a brewery group based in the North West (Neil Bennett writes).

The disposal comes after the sale of the Dukes Hotel this year and leaves Trafalgar with The Ritz, which is now managed by the Mandarin Oriental hotel group from Hong Kong, an associate of Hong Kong Land, Trafalgar's 25 per cent shareholder.

Pennington, page 25

Imro fines London Life £50,000

By ROBERT MILLER

LONDON Life, the insurance company owned by AMP, Australia's largest insurer, was yesterday fined £50,000 by Imro, the regulator for fund management companies. The firm was also ordered to pay costs of £35,000.

Imro bought disciplinary proceedings against London Life for four breaches of its rules. The breaches, which took place between 1988 and 1990, related to compliance arrangements, accounting records, client money bank accounts and custodian agreements. The regulator said that London Life's mainstream UK life and pensions business, which has 95,000 policyholders and £2 billion of funds under management, was not involved.

A spokesman for London Life said: "The fines were for technical and historic rule breaches relating to one corporate client who is no longer with us."

The latest fine is the fourth largest levied by Imro this year. So far this year, Imro has fined nine members a total of £481,000. Since 1991, when details of its fines were first made public, the regulator has issued 28 fines totalling £2.6 million.

The largest of these was levied last year against Invesco, which had to pay £750,000, of which £150,000 related to dealings with Maxwell pensions funds. Noble Lowndes, now part of Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, was ordered to pay £740,000 last December. This was for breach of the rules relating to churning and switching where investors were recommended to switch between products on grounds that were not justified.

Bonn official resigns in Telekom row

THE planned privatisation of Deutsche Telekom, the German state telecommunications group, has claimed another casualty, with the surprise resignation of a top official at the post ministry in Bonn (Colin Narbrough writes).

The first DM15 billion tranche of Telekom, Europe's biggest telecommunications group, to be sold off in Germany, the United States, and Britain in early 1996, will be the biggest issue of German shares.

The ministry said yesterday that Peter Bross, who headed the liberalisation and licensing division, had handed in his resignation to Wolfgang Böttsch, the Posts Minister. Herr Bross had been highly critical of the Government's plans for privatising Telekom.

The week before last, Helmut Rieke resigned from the chairmanship of Telekom.

Telekom alarm bells, page 27

Highland lifts stake in Remy Cointreau

HIGHLAND Distilleries, the independent whisky-maker, is investing £41.9 million to lift its stake in Remy Cointreau, the leading French drinks group, from an effective 11.6 per cent to 16.1 per cent in an effort to cement the growing co-operation between the two companies. In a complex deal, Highland is buying Remy shares worth £19.4 million on the Paris bourse. It is then transferring them to Orpar, an investment joint venture that the group owns with the Herliard Dubreuil family, which controls Remy.

Separately, Highland is issuing shares worth £22.5 million to lift its stake in Orpar by 5 percentage points to 30 per cent. It is doing so by buying out a 50 per cent stake in an investment joint venture company it owns with Robertson & Baxter, the bottling company. Highland is issuing 5.4 million shares to Robertson & Baxter, which will lift the company's stake in Highland from 14.7 per cent to 18.2 per cent. The two transactions will increase Orpar's stake in Remy from 46.4 per cent to a controlling 53.7 per cent, while Highland interest in Orpar rises five points to 30 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

Ladbroke post filled

LADBROKE Group, the hotels & casinos company, has completed its search for a new finance director with the appointment of Brian Wallace, currently filling the same post at Geest, the fruit and prepared food shipper. Mr Wallace, 40, replaces Jerry O'Mahoney, who died in June. He joins in April, until when David Wilson will continue as stop-gap finance director. In due course, Mr Wilson, who joined from Ernst & Young, will be appointed to a senior management position within Ladbroke. Tempus, page 26

Telegraph shares deal

THE Telegraph, publisher of *The Daily Telegraph*, revealed yesterday that Hollinger, its ultimate parent company, has agreed to buy 7 million shares, or 5.19 per cent of the company, at 450p from the Telegraph Newspaper Trust between April and November next year. The stake represents nearly all of the remaining holding of the Berry family, which originally sold the newspaper to Conrad Black, the present chairman. Shares in *The Telegraph* rose from 347p to 390p yesterday.

Ulster Bank buys NCB

ULSTER Bank, NatWest's Irish subsidiary, yesterday announced that it had completed its long expected acquisition of NCB, a Dublin stockbroker. Ulster, the third largest bank in Ireland, will pay £10 million plus a further £15 million in loyalty and performance bonuses if NCB meets its profit targets over the next five years. NCB's founding chairman, Dermot Desmond owns 53 per cent of the business, one of Dublin's "Big Four" brokerages. Employees own the balance.

Low RJB application

RJB MINING, the company which has bought the English mines from British Coal, yesterday revealed a low uptake from the public for its shares. RJB said that it had received applications for only 2.67 million shares from the public against the total of 125 million shares which had previously been placed with City institutions. Only 5 per cent of the offer had been set aside for the public leaving the public offer 43 per cent subscribed. Of the company's employees, 64 per cent applied for shares. RJB said it was delighted with the response.

Call for building Bill

A GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED committee has endorsed calls for a new Construction Contracts Bill to assist a 30 per cent improvement in the efficiency of Britain's building industry. Advisers say the Bill should oblige all contractors insure against latent defects in their work, outlaw unfair contract conditions, and set a new framework for liability for shortcomings. The Bill could be placed before Parliament during the 1995-96 session after consultation on draft clauses. The committee was chaired by Sir Michael Latham.

EU inflation steady

ANNUAL inflation in the European Union was unchanged at 3 per cent in November, the lowest level since March 1987, Eurostat, the statistical service, said. France continued to have the lowest rate at 1.6 per cent. Belgium and Luxembourg had 2 per cent. Denmark 2.1; the Irish Republic 2.4; The Netherlands 2.5; Britain 2.6; and Germany 2.7. Annual inflation in Italy and Portugal was 4 per cent, while in Spain it was 4.4 and in Greece 10.6 per cent. The rates compared with 0.8 per cent in Japan and 2.7 in America.

Bids sought for pit stake

BRITISH Coal and Commercial Union are seeking offers for their 14.81 per cent interest in Australia's most productive coal mining complex, German Creek in Queensland. The complex, which involves two deep mines and an opencast operation, produced five million tonnes of high-quality coal last year. British Coal's share, held jointly with CU through Capricorn Coal Developments, amounts to 13.2 per cent. The disposal is part of the privatisation of the British state coal corporation and is being handled by Samuel Montagu.

Aerospace acquisition

AEROSPACE Engineering, the aerospace and electronic components company, is acquiring Pascall Electronics (Holdings) for a maximum consideration of £5.5 million in cash and shares. In the year to September 30, 1993, the business earned profits of £184,000 before tax on turnover of £5.3 million. Aerospace reported profits of £35,000 on turnover of £7.47 million for the six months to October 31, compared with £127,000 and £7.7 million respectively last time. The interim dividend is held at 0.25p a share.

Starmin survival plan

STARMIN, the troubled quarries company, unveiled a survival plan yesterday. The company, which announced doubled pre-tax annual losses of £23.2 million in July, is issuing new shares to raise £2.48 million and selling its Lovie operations in Scotland for £3.3 million. Lord Parkinson will be replaced as chairman by accountant Edward Weiss. Starmin will be renamed Water Hail Group. New shares are being issued at 0.75p each and an extraordinary shareholders' meeting has been convened for January 17.

WTO starts with caretaker chief

FROM SHARMILA DEVI IN GENEVA

PETER SUTHERLAND will be the caretaker chief of the World Trade Organisation for ten weeks from its New Year's Day launch to allow time for the leading trading nations to agree to a permanent appointment of a director-general, officials said yesterday.

The European Union, America and Asia each have their favoured candidate to head the new body. The delay in selecting the director-general has proved to be an embarrassment amid the fanfare that accompanied the launch of the WTO.

Mr Sutherland, of Ireland, who is credited with guiding the Uruguay Round Accord on



Sutherland: guided deal

trade liberalisation through seven tortuous years of negotiation, has indicated that he does not want to stay in the post permanently. He has been director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade since July 1993, after having served as a European Competition Commissioner and chairman of Allied Irish Banks.

Andras Szepesi, Hungary's trade ambassador to Gatt, which will be replaced by the WTO, announced in an official statement that Mr Sutherland had agreed to stay in office until March 15 to allow for a smooth transition.

The most likely choice for the permanent job is the EU's candidate, Renato Ruggiero, a former Italian trade minister, who has 50 per cent of the votes from the 125 members of Gatt. President Clinton has signalled Washington's support for Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the former Mexican President.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.12	1.85
Austria Sch	16.73	16.73
Belgium Fr	53.44	49.14
Canada \$	2.776	2.118
Cyprus Cyp	0.788	0.733
Denmark Kr	10.23	9.43
Finland Mk	6.20	5.82
France Fr	8.94	8.24
Germany DM	2.60	2.60
Greece Dr	339.00	374.00
Hong Kong \$	12.71	11.71
Ireland P	1.08	0.98
Italy Lit	2085.00	2510.00
Japan Yen	170.50	154.50
Malta	0.833	0.878
Netherlands Gld	2.892	2.692
Norway Kr	11.29	10.49
Portugal Esc	262.50	244.00
S Africa R	2085.00	2085.00
Spain Ptas	214.00	200.00
Sweden Kr	12.35	11.55
Switzerland Fr	2.20	2.00
Turkey Lira	16.87	5701.00
USA \$	1.657	1.527

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF FRYER CONSTRUCTION LTD. IN THE MATTER OF AND IN THE MATTER OF VERULAM SPECIAL EFFECTS LIMITED. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above companies will be held at the offices of the Liquidator, Mr. J. P. Fryer, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on 12th January 1995 at 10.30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a statement of affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidator. A list of the names and addresses of the creditors is available for inspection at the offices of the Liquidator, Mr. J. P. Fryer, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on 12th January 1995 at 10.30 am. The creditors are requested to attend the meeting and to bring with them a copy of the statement of affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidator. The creditors are requested to attend the meeting and to bring with them a copy of the statement of affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidator.

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Pursuant to Section 46 of the Insolvency Act 1986, WHITE HART LTD. (1981) LIMITED. ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER, ERIC WILLIAM SHEPPARD OF PURPLETON & APPLEBY, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN. DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 15th December 1994. BY WHOM APPOINTED: JUDITH CATHERINE NEW. DATE OF MORTGAGE DEBENTURE: 24th April 1988. ASSETS SECURED: The whole of the Property and Assets of the Company. DATED THE 15th day of December 1994. E.W. SHEPPARD, Administrative Receiver.

TRAVERS MORGAN LIMITED. IN LIQUIDATION. Registered number: 2323667. Notice of the Liquidator's Report. The Liquidator, Mr. J. P. Fryer, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on 12th January 1995 at 10.30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a statement of affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidator. A list of the names and addresses of the creditors is available for inspection at the offices of the Liquidator, Mr. J. P. Fryer, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on 12th January 1995 at 10.30 am. The creditors are requested to attend the meeting and to bring with them a copy of the statement of affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidator.

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THE TIMES
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هكذا من الأصل

□ Rush to judgment on building societies □ Lloyd's shrinks again □ Trafalgar and the power regulator

Office of free trading

□ THE Office of Fair Trading continues to work in mysterious ways. While it has spent the best part of a year deliberating on the complex competitive pressures within the pre-paid funerals market, it has managed to determine in less than a month that the proposed £20 billion merger between Halifax and the Leeds building societies poses no threat whatsoever to the hallowed shrines of the free market.

How reassuring that Britain's competition regulator can be so sure in its judgment, so quickly! The rocket scientists within the OFT clearly grasped the complexities of Britain's mortgage and savings market within hours of the merger being announced and have now determined that the behemoth that will emerge from the union will have as much difficulty selling its wares to the public as the two did individually.

A more pedestrian outfit may have taken longer to come to such a decision. Market shares are, after all, highly subjective things. When companies want to impress the world at large they are often puffed up like balloons. But when the same companies want to dodge a regulatory cough they suddenly shrink into insignificance.

The financial services industry is particularly prone to such subjectivity. In the mortgage market alone, there is a bewildering choice of ways to count market

share. A lender can quote his share of gross assets, of gross new lending or net new lending. As figures from Abbey National prove, such figures can fluctuate considerably depending on the products and rates a society has on offer in a given month. Bluntly, a society can massage its market share in the short term to any figure it chooses.

Then again, there are different aspects to the mortgage market. Building societies attract different types of customers than the centralised lenders and even the banks, so a regulator could argue that each should be regarded as a distinct market. If so the Halifax/Leeds merger would undoubtedly break the golden 25 per cent market share barrier that should trigger an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

There is also a strong argument that the mortgage and savings markets are local or regional, so the concentration of Halifax and Leeds branches in their Yorkshire heartland deserves special scrutiny. The retail financial services industry is undergoing fun-

damental changes with the end of the building society movement in prospect. With this merger looming, the OFT had a perfect opportunity to call for a full-scale MMC inquiry to lay out the parameters for further inevitable consolidation within the industry. Such an inquiry would not have disadvantaged either society since the merger process will take months. For whatever reason, the OFT have waved this deal through with indecent haste. That leaves the way clear for a complete free-for-all to determine the future of a key component of the British economy.

Farewell old names, hello new names

□ THE KINDEST thing you can say about Lloyd's is that it is consolidating after years of trauma. A fall of 6 per cent in capacity for 1995 might make sense as a cautious response to the insurance cycle levelling off. But in many sectors Lloyd's does not set premium levels any more. It is merely losing its share of



markets that others reckon are still pretty healthy.

No prizes for guessing why. At 14,800, the ranks of individual underwriting names have shrunk by 15 per cent over the year and will be 44 per cent down on the 1989 peak of more than 26,000, whose experience proved so dismal. Internal names, who have suffered more than some publicity would suggest, will shrink well below 3,000, probably less than half the 1988 peak.

The switch to limited liability continues apace. In 1995, corporate underwriters will provide nearly a quarter of capacity, up from 15 per cent last year. And even the individual names will predominantly put their money in pooled unit trust type arrange-

ments. Given the liberal new rules for corporate underwriting in 1995, growth there must be considered disappointing. This is, for better or worse, where the future of Lloyd's lies. There also lie the new problems.

Many individual names are just trading out of their losses through better years without much long-term commitment to the market. Their numbers will eventually shrink to the truly rich putting their all into niche underwriting syndicates. As limited liability underwriting and its surrogates become the norm, Lloyd's will progressively lose its key cost advantage: the lower capital employed that unlimited liability allowed.

Where are the new unique selling propositions Lloyd's will need to compete with the regular corporate insurers? Not in the retail markets, where Lloyd's is an also-ran in the direct-selling cost revolution. Nor in catastrophe insurance, where a couple of good years have already attracted a new generation of fair-weather capital. There are plenty of new insurance markets, with novel risks to match.

Lloyd's will need to develop its expertise there, and recover its nerve, to become more than a relic of past glories and disasters.

Northern cheek

□ WHAT is one to make of the decision of the electricity regulator apparently to collude with Trafalgar House in its hostile £12 billion takeover bid for Northern Electric? Stephen Littlechild implied on Tuesday that the purchase of Northern by AN Other regional company would cause problems by wiping out one of his bases of comparison. By contrast a buyer from outside the industry would not, which would seem to tilt the playing field in Trafalgar's favour.

Now we learn that Trafalgar directors, presumably at meetings a month ago when the company first broached with Professor Littlechild the subject of a possible bid for Northern, learnt that their path might be greased if a few bob went the way of the customer too. It is time

a couple of facts were firmly stated. One, the Trafalgar bid looks increasingly like a tax-driven device by Hongkong Land, funded by funny money in the form of convertibles, to ship some assets from the colony to a safe haven ahead of 1997. So some of those pennies offered to freezing Northern customers would come courtesy of the British taxpayer.

Second, it is not up to the regulator, but the DTI and OFT to decide if the bid should go ahead, and the betting looks to favour a reference, not least on political grounds. The regulator may well have been mugged by the electricity industry during the August tariff review, but there is no reason for him to gang up with outsiders to settle the score in any forthcoming open bid season.

Outside influence

□ THE board of Central Transport Rental (aka Tiphook) had full confidence in Robert Montague. It took personal bankruptcy petitions from clearing banks to remove the founder after a long series of financial setbacks. An American shareholder stiffened Saatchi & Saatchi's previously compliant board to ship the eponymous, impregnable Maurice. Where, pray, were the non-executive directors on their own?

Walker Greenbank in call for £16m

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

WALKER Greenbank, the wallcoverings and fabrics group, is calling on shareholders for £16.5 million to finance the £6.45 acquisition of Warner Fabrics and to help to fund the group's capital expenditure plans.

The group is paying £4.5 million in cash for Warner, which supplies furnishing fabrics to the top end of the retail trade, and assuming about £2 million of outstanding bank debt.

Shareholders are being offered one new share for every five existing shares at 90p each, a 19 per cent discount to Tuesday's closing price of 107.5p. The rights issue is fully underwritten by SG Warburg.

Charles Wightman, Walker Greenbank's chief executive, said that Warner fitted perfectly with the group's existing consumer operations and he believed there was considerable scope to improve its profitability. He said the business's large design archive would also be valuable. "This is a very sweet deal," he said.

Last year, the business incurred a loss before taxation of £453,000 on sales of £8.27 million. Net assets stood at £3.69 million.

Walker Greenbank requires about £9.4 million to invest in a new distribution facility and office complex for Murrac, its commercial wallcoverings and fabrics business, which is the largest contributor to group profits.

The group said that the strong trend seen in the first half, when underlying sales rose 17 per cent, had continued into the second half. As a result, the board forecasts pre-tax profits for 1995 will exceed £8.94 million, up from £7.08 million in the previous period.

The directors intend to recommend a final dividend of 2.30p (210p) making a total payout of 3.60p (330p).

Tempus, page 26

Boddington buys ten nursing homes from Bupa

By MARTIN WALLER AND ROBERT MILLER

BODDINGTON Group, the pub operator based in the North West, is expanding further into healthcare with the purchase of ten nursing homes from Bupa, the private medical insurance group. The deal makes Boddington, still best associated with its brewing interests sold to Whitbread five years ago, one of the ten biggest nursing home groups in Britain.

Boddington is buying Bupa Care for the Elderly for £27 million. An additional £37 million in the bank at the business will be refunded to the vendor. The purchase is part of a continuing retrenchment by Bupa, Britain's largest private medical insurer, which has also announced that it is closing all ten of its member service centres over the next two years.

The Bupa business being bought by Boddington has 448 registered beds, mainly in the south of England. The purchase of one of the ten is dependent on modification of an existing planning cove-

nant, and if this is not forthcoming the home will not be bought and the purchase price will be cut by £1.45 million. Boddington already has 18 nursing homes and 725 beds and approached Bupa in the summer. The deal, said Denis Cassidy, the chairman, will enhance earnings in the 1995-96 financial year and thereafter. The operation of nursing homes, he added, was a natural extension of the pubs and hotels that form the company's core business.

"There is a bigger older population and an undersupply in the market of places where those people can reside when they become dependent," he added. "We have bought the only other comparable group in the market, Bupa, which is why we went to see them."

As a result, he said, further big acquisitions in the nursing home area were unlikely.

Bupa is to shut all its service centres, its regional network dealing direct with its members, will affect up to 400 jobs.

Bupa, which has about a 48 per cent share of the £2 billion-plus private medical insurance market, said that another 200 jobs would be created in the restructuring. A spokesman added that any staff who were made redundant would receive "well above the statutory minimum redundancy payments and individual counselling".

The centres will be closed in two phases. Among the first to go are Bournemouth, which will close in February, followed in April by Leeds and Oxford and Bromley in June. The second phase of closures will begin in the spring of 1996, with Woodford, and in the summer by Bristol.

In a letter to Bupa employees Roger Hymas, managing director of Bupa Membership, said that Bupa House is scheduled to open in the spring of 1996. It will be the head office for the membership, health services and international divisions.

Tempus, page 26

'Soap wars' take toll on Hickson

By MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

HICKSON International, the specialist chemicals company, has fallen victim to the so-called soap wars between Lever Brothers and Procter & Gamble.

Hickson said yesterday it had been told that Lever Brothers, the UK detergent subsidiary of Unilever, would not be taking any more of its soap powder accelerator through 1995. Lever said it had sufficient stocks of the accelerator after reformulating detergents and reducing its use.

Hickson said that the product contributed about £8 million a year to group profits and it was in discussions with existing and potential customers to fill capacity at its Irish PharmaChem plant. It had secured initial offers

from two companies in the past month, with contracts likely early in 1995. However, lengthy lead times meant PharmaChem was unlikely to be back in full production before next autumn.

Hickson said that group employee numbers would fall by about 200 by the end of next year as part of an on-going cost-cutting drive. The company said it would meet profit expectations for the current year. Other group businesses continued to perform to expectations, although Hickson Kerley remained weak. Total cost of the rationalisation programme was £7.5 million, of which £3 million was charged in 1993 and £4.5 million will be set against the results for the year to December.

Coats Viyella feels effect of mild autumn

THE warm autumn weather has hit demand for knitwear and carpets at Coats Viyella, Britain's biggest textile company. But the group still expects profits for 1994 to emerge in line with City expectations (Susan Gilchrist writes).

Coats expects operating profits in the year to December 31 will be ahead of last year, but says there will be no repeat of last year's £21.2 million exceptional gain. Pre-tax profits will be in line with market forecasts which range between £150 million and £175 million. Earnings per share are expected to be well up on last year due to a lower tax charge. Yesterday the shares fell 5p to 189p.

The group has found a successor to Russell Walls, the finance director who leaves at the end of this month.



Denis Cassidy, left, and Andrew Garety, Boddington finance director, after announcing the Bupa purchase yesterday

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Queens Moat board called to account

By PHILIP FANGALOS

THE board of Queens Moat Houses, the debt-laden hotel group that is in the throes of a financial restructuring, received a grilling from shareholders at yesterday's deferred annual meeting.

More than 200 shareholders who had gathered at London's Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre for what proved to be an ill-tempered affair were left no clearer as to what the future holds.

Stanley Metcalfe, non-executive chairman, told holders that their shares would not be worthless after then financial restructuring. But the feeling of many at the meeting was summed up by the investor who asked: "Is there a chance in hell we will emerge from this mire with any value?" Mr Metcalfe said that, as



Andrew Coppel, chief executive, flanked by fellow directors

suming current trading gains continued, the group would be viable and the shares would have a value, though there would be no dividend in the foreseeable future.

Mr Metcalfe said that he had hoped to complete the

restructuring proposals by the summer, but the number of banks involved and the size of the debts had delayed the process. The costs of restructuring, including advice to banks, stand at £42 million. Queens Moat sent a circular

to shareholders last week, setting out proposals to convert debts into shares, to be voted on at a special meeting early in the new year.

Under the restructuring plan, existing shareholders would keep 40 per cent of the enlarged share capital, with preference shares converted into ordinary shares on enhanced terms. Queens Moat has also proposed that debenture stock terms be amended to waive existing breaches of security covenants.

Mr Metcalfe reminded investors that if the restructuring were not to proceed, insolvent liquidation could not be avoided.

Mr Metcalfe said the company was vigorously fighting the claims for unfair dismissal being pursued by former directors. He said Queens Moat would counter-claim.

City ready for Trafalgar raid on Northern shares

TRAFALGAR HOUSE is poised to step up the pressure in its £1.2 billion battle for control of Northern Electric by raiding the stock market in an attempt to pick up 10 per cent of the shares.

Word in the Square Mile last night claimed that Swiss Bank Corporation, which is advising Trafalgar, is ready to pounce, spending £130 million buying shares at £10.48 a share, equivalent to the cash alternative included in the bid terms. Brokers say that with the Northern share price closing 2p easier at £10, Trafalgar would be foolish not to take advantage of the situation.

Under Takeover Panel rules Trafalgar, 1p firmer at 75p, can buy up to 10 per cent of the company in the marketplace. An opening 40-point rise on Wall Street enabled share prices on the London market to extend their traditional pre-Christmas rally.

But it was a half-hearted affair with an early futures advance running out of steam after becoming influenced by the inevitable seasonal festivities.

But the opening rise in the Dow Jones industrial average enabled the FT-SE 100 index to move back into positive territory during the last hour of trading to close at its best of the day, up 12.3 at 3,070.4.

Trading remained thin as institutional investors began squaring up portfolios ahead of the year-end. By the close of business, only 584 million shares had changed hands.

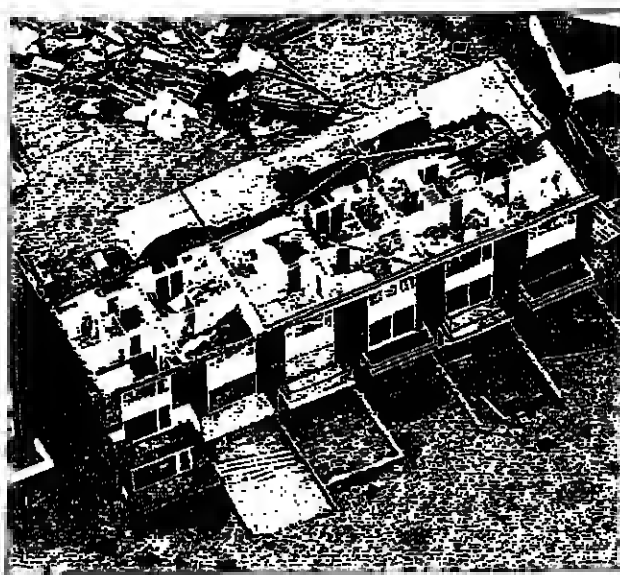
Attention was again focused on Glaxo as the price responded with a jump of 23p at 685p as American buyers moved in. On Tuesday, the group announced that the US patent on Zantac, its anti-ulcer treatment, had been extended until July 1997. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, has upgraded its recommendation in Glaxo from a hold to a buy.

There was also institutional support for Zeneca, 12p to 39p, Wellcome, 10p to 70p, and SmithKline Beecham, 8p to 47p.

Insurance shares were hit by the news that the Halifax Building Society was cutting premiums on household insurance by an average of 20 per cent starting in the New Year. The Halifax also planned to introduce a no-claims discount. It was bad news for the insurance companies which now fear a price war. Losses were recorded in



MICHAEL CLARK



Household insurance premium cuts damaged shares

Commercial Union, 7p to 51p, Guardian Royal Exchange, 3p to 17p, General Accident, 1p to 51p, Royal Insurance 9p to 27p and Sun Alliance, 13p to 30p.

Interest in the property sector was rekindled by reports that the Kuwait Investment Office had been offered £1.5 billion by a consortium, headed by Barings merchant bank, rescue package can be thrashed out for Stanhope Properties in which it has a 30 per cent stake.

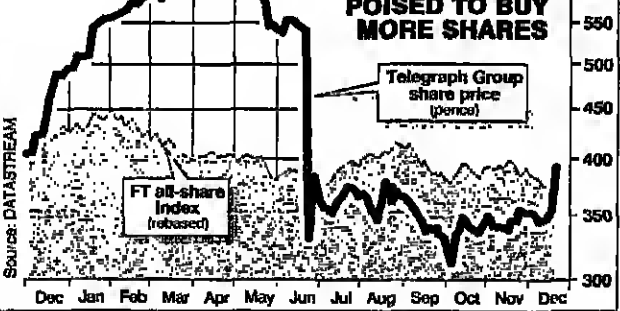
Central Transport Rental Group, the debt-laden trailer rental group, which until recently traded under the name of Tiphook, fell 3p to 32p after Robert Montague stepped down as chief executive. He will be replaced by Ian Clubb, who

joined the company as chairman in September. Mr Montague has decided not to defend a bankruptcy petition being brought against him at a hearing tomorrow. If he is judged to be bankrupt, his service contract will be terminated immediately.

The Telegraph, publisher of The Daily Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph, rebounded 33p to 390p on learning that

for its St Martins Property portfolio. Brokers took it as a sign that confidence had begun to return to the property sector. The Kuwaitis say St Martins is not for sale.

There were rises for Hamersson, 16p to 343p, Slough Estates, 11p to 22p, and MEPC, 2p to 380p after going ex-dividend. British Land also rose 10p to 376p amid growing hopes that it



Telegraph Group share price (pence)

Conrad Black, its chief, intends to add to his 58.56 per cent stake in the company. Under an agreement with The 140 Trustee Company, trustee of the Telegraph Newspaper Trust, he is to acquire an extra 7 million shares, or 5 per cent, at prices up to 45p.

Earlier this year the Telegraph share price plummeted after he sold a parcel of 12 million shares in the market.

Shares of Copymore, the office equipment group, tumbled 70p to 110p after announcing that bid talks had fallen through. Copymore's shares were already 30p lower when the Stock Exchange intervened to put the stock on stand-by, with indicative prices only, ahead of the announcement.

Bid talks at Hartons, the plastics group, have also been called off. The Dutch group Schuursveld Holdings has bought a 32.8 per cent stake in the company owned by the Mainman family.

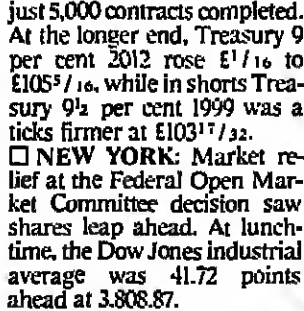
Hartons shares were untroubled at 61p. Hickson International rallied the Square Mile with news of a profits warning, leaving the shares 12p lower at 114p. The soap powder wars would affect first-half profits after Lever Brothers, the US group, cut its orders for detergent additives. Lever said it already had all the additives it needed for 1995. Hickson said results for the full-year would be in line with market expectations although a further £4.5 million of rationalisation costs would have to be made.

A profits shortfall left Victoria Carpet 10p lower at 130p. First-half figures showed pre-tax profits down from £456,000 to £341,000.

GI LT-EDGED: Gilts struggled to make headway in the wake of the decision by the Federal Open Market Committee to peg interest rates. Prices were squeezed higher in thin trading with modest gains recorded by the close. In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished £7.32 better at £102.17/32, with just 5,000 contracts completed.

At the longer end, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 rose £1/16 to £105.7/16, while in shorts Treasury 9 1/2 per cent 1999 was a ticks firmer at £103.17/32.

NEW YORK: Market relief at the Federal Open Market Committee decision saw shares lead ahead. At lunchtime, the Dow Jones industrial average was 41.72 points ahead at 3,808.87.



Telegraph Group share price (pence)

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	
Dow Jones	3808.87 (+41.72)
S&P Composite	461.08 (+3.98)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Average	19340.67 (+66.31)
Hang Seng	6331.56 (+64.23)
Amsterdam	
EOE Index	413.35 (+2.71)
AO	1905.5 (+6.9)
Sydney	
Frankfurt	2086.66 (+6.73)
OSAX	2217.48 (+34.02)
Singapore	
General	7173.24 (+1.26)
CAC-40	1940.89 (+16.17)
Paris	
SKA Gen	651.90 (+3.00)
London	
FT 30	2355.7 (+5.8)
FT 100	3070.4 (+12.3)
FT-SE Mid 250	3466.6 (+2.9)
FT-SE 100	3466.6 (+2.9)
FT All-Share	1519.48 (+4.74)
FT Non Financials	1040.62 (+5.25)
FT Gold Mines	229.4 (+0.2)
FT Real Estate	109.72 (+0.03)
FT Govt Secs	91.94 (+0.04)
Burgundy	187.48
SEAQ Volume	584.9m
USM (Domestic)	148.94 (+0.78)
USM (Foreign)	100.03
German Mark	2.4902 (-0.0031)
Exchange Index	802.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official rate	1.25%
EECU	1.453 Nov (2.6%) Jan 1997 to 100
ESOR	1.0750
RPI	145.3 Nov (2.6%) Jan 1997 to 100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mgmtm (100)	95
BSkyB	250p
Clydebank	166
Eudidian (100)	97
Fidelity Spec V Uts	470 +2
Finsbury Sm Cos (100)	98
First Russ Frnts (510)	620
Fleming Nat Res (100)	92
For & Col Emrg (100)	104 +1
Gyro Intnl (80)	500 +2
Hydro Intnl (80)	83
INVESTCO Korea C	96
Innovative Techs (120)	123
Kin Capital (100)	100
Leg & Gen Reevy (100)	99
MICE Group (3)	34
Mainstn Lloyds Inv (100)	86
Murray Emg Ec (100)	92
RAP Group	138
Real (175)	205
SeaPerfect (120)	129
Telewest Coms (182)	176 +3
Wellington Under (100)	102

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cowie n/p (100)	25
Division Grp n/p (100)	18 +5
Inspirations n/p (120)	15
M n/p (53)	1
OMI n/p (17)	2
Salure n/p (112)	1
Tomorrows Lts n/p (10)	1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Wolsey	77p (+13p)
United Frndly	52p (+15p)
Floreda	41p (+15p)
Blush Toys	23p (+15p)
FALLS:	
Sun Alliance	300p (-13p)
Andrew Sykes	137p (-21p)
Hickson	114p (-12p)
Victoria Carpet	130p (-10p)
General Accident	519p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS Nursing a pint

BODDINGTON'S policy is to get out of businesses that do you harm and into healthcare. While the tide is flowing against tobacco and alcohol, Denis Cassidy, Boddington's chairman, reasons that the ageing population is enhancing prospects for nursing homes. The demographics are clear, and more nursing home places will be needed in future to cope with rising demand from those who live longer but are unable to care for themselves alone.

All this suggests the nursing home sector, badly hit by over-expansion in the 1980s and a falling property market which discouraged moves from owner-occupied accommodation to residential care, could be one of the stars of the 1990s. Boddington, after its 1989 departure from brewing, has positioned itself at the top end of the market and is paying a

correspondingly high exit multiple. The price of Bupa's nursing homes, after allowing for certain oddities of accounting, is about 20 times this year's earnings, in line with the better quoted operators in the sector.

Boddington is also paying about £4 million over book value, even though cash-strapped Bupa is a keen seller. Nonetheless, the price looks fair given that the chain being bought is probably the last premium one still available. As a result, Boddington should see about 8 per cent of turnover and 15 per cent of profits coming from nursing homes, making it larger than the group's hotels. The shares sell on 13 times' 1994-95 earnings. While pub retailing is not the most dynamic industry, moves like the Bupa purchase suggest the company is ahead in its programme to lessen dependence on its core business.

Ladbroke

THE long-awaited appointment of a new finance director at Ladbroke completes a team that faces the challenge of turning the group around and squeezing a more adequate return out of its assets.

Brian Wallace, from Geest, may be a banana counter rather than a bean counter, but he comes with a sufficiently solid corporate background to satisfy investors.

In the past year, Ladbroke started a painful transition. The group has begun by disposing of almost a third of its property portfolio and basing a pair of London casinos, which should improve cash flow.

But the group still needs to sell £600 million of property to reduce borrowings. Then Texas needs radical attention, unless the group finds someone brave enough to buy a

DIY chain in the current

market. Ladbroke must also examine the future of the Vernons pools business, which is facing a lingering death after the launch of the National Lottery.

The most difficult issue, however, is the position of its Hilton hotels business. This badly needs a presence in America, to offer global cover-

age. Some deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation in the US, which has put itself up for sale, may be the best solution since it would settle the long-running confusion over branding and settle the outstanding litigation between the two as well. The resolution of some of these issues would finally kick-start the share price.



Hilton Hotels Corporation share price (pence)

Highland Distilleries

HIGHLAND denies that its acquisition of another 4.5 per cent of Remy Cointreau was intended to improve the group's defences against an unwanted bid, but it is a useful side-effect. By issuing 5.4 million shares to Robertson & Baxter, it ensures that another 3.5 per cent of its shares are in friendly hands.

Meanwhile, the group's ties with Remy are growing so strong that any marauder would find it difficult and commercially damaging to pull them apart.

Highland has now invested £15 million in Remy, a substantial sum for a group its size, and in financial terms it is difficult to see what the group gets out of it. It is a minority convertible bondholder in a private company that controls Remy, and as such has very little management input into the company at all. The bonds carry a 6 per

cent coupon and Highland admits the latest deal will dilute earnings by almost 3 per cent in a full year.

That, however, ignores the very real commercial benefits that Highland is receiving from the link. By distributing Famous Grouse in a portfolio that contains such world class products as Remy Martin and Krug, Highland has raised its international profile considerably in much the same way as Guinness did with Moët Hennessy. Remy and Highland are similar in size, and in the heavily consolidated international spirits industry, it would not be a surprise to see the two companies one day get very much closer indeed.

Walker Greenbank

INVESTORS should be glad that the owner of Warner Fabrics pulled an £18 million flotation in 1989. Five years later, Walker Greenbank is buying the share capital of Warner

for a tenth of that plus the cost of paying back £2.5 million of inter-company debt.

Warner is a shadow of the business it was in the glory days of the late 1980s when the upwardly mobile moved house every 18 months, decorating their homes with Warner soft furnishings and wallpaper. Turnover has more than halved and 20 per cent operating margins went negative as new design launches were cut by two thirds. To restore profits, Walker Greenbank intends to invest in working capital to boost sales from £8 million to £12 million. A bonus is an archive of fabric designs from 1870, insured for £6 million and for which Walker has paid £1.

Few will begrudge Walker funds to buy Warner but investors are also being asked to fund a £9.4 million office and distribution facility. Gearing is modest at 7 per cent and cash flow should be ample to support such expansion.

Edited by NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE	
Dec	Jan
COFFEE	1025-1022
COFFEE	1041-1038
COFFEE	1051-1048
COFFEE	1060-1057
COFFEE	1069-1066
COFFEE	1078-1075
COFFEE	1087-1084
COFFEE	1096-1093
COFFEE	1105-1102
COFFEE	1114-1111
COFFEE	1123-1120
COFFEE	1132-1129
COFFEE	1141-1138
COFFEE	1150-1147
COFFEE	1159-1156
COFFEE	1168-1165
COFFEE	1177-1174
COFFEE	1186-1183
COFFEE	1195-1192
COFFEE	1204-1201
COFFEE	1213-1210
COFFEE	1222-1219
COFFEE	1231-1228
COFFEE	1240-1237
COFFEE	1249-1246
COFFEE	1258-1255
COFFEE	1267-1264
COFFEE	1276-1273
COFFEE	1285-1282
COFFEE	1294-1291
COFFEE	1303-1300
COFFEE	1312-1309
COFFEE	1321-1318
COFFEE	1330-1327
COFFEE	1339-1336
COFFEE	1348-1345
COFFEE	1357-1354
COFFEE	1366-1363
COFFEE	1375-1372
COFFEE	1384-1381
COFFEE	1393-1390
COFFEE	1402-1399
COFFEE	1411-1408
COFFEE	1420-1417
COFFEE	1429-1426
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COFFEE	1447-1444
COFFEE	1456-1453
COFFEE	1465-1462
COFFEE	1474-1471
COFFEE	1483-1480
COFFEE	1492-1489
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COFFEE	1519-1516
COFFEE	1528-1525
COFFEE	1537-1534
COFFEE	1546-1543
COFFEE	1555-1552
COFFEE	1564-1561
COFFEE	1573-1570
COFFEE	1582-1579
COFFEE	1591-1588
COFFEE	1600-1597
COFFEE	1609-1606
COFFEE	1618-1615
COFFEE	1627-1624
COFFEE	1636-1633
COFFEE	1645-1642
COFFEE	1654-1651
COFFEE	1663-1660
COFFEE	1672-1669
COFFEE	1681-1678
COFFEE	1690-1687
COFFEE	1699-1696
COFFEE	1708-1705
COFFEE	1717-1714
COFFEE	1726-1723
COFFEE	1735-1732
COFFEE	1744-1741
COFFEE	1753-1750
COFFEE	1762-1759
COFFEE	1771-1768
COFFEE	1780-1777
COFFEE	1789-1786
COFFEE	1798-1795
COFFEE	1807-1804
COFFEE	1816-1813
COFFEE	1825-1822
COFFEE	1834-1831
COFFEE	1843-1840
COFFEE	1852-1849
COFFEE	1861-1858
COFFEE	1870-1867
COFFEE	1879-1876
COFFEE	1888-1885
COFFEE	1897-1894
COFFEE	1906-1903
COFFEE	1915-1912
COFFEE	1924-1921
COFFEE	1933-1930
COFFEE	1942-1939
COFFEE	1951-1948
COFFEE	1960-1957
COFFEE	1969-1966
COFFEE	1978-1975
COFFEE	1987-1984
COFFEE	1996-1993
COFFEE	2005-2002
COFFEE	2014-2011
COFFEE	2023-2020
COFFEE	2032-2029
COFFEE	2041-2038
COFFEE	2050-2047
COFFEE	2059-2056
COFFEE	2068-2065
COFFEE	2077-2074
COFFEE	2086-2083
COFFEE	2095-2092
COFFEE	2104-2101
COFFEE	2113-2110
COFFEE	2122-2119
COFFEE	2131-2128
COFFEE	2140-2137
COFFEE	2149-2146
COFFEE	2158-2155
COFFEE	2167-2164
COFFEE	2176-2173
COFFEE	2185-2182
COFFEE	2194-2191
COFFEE	2203-2200
COFFEE	2212-2209
COFFEE	2221-2218
COFFEE	2230-2227
COFFEE	2239-2236
COFFEE	2248-2245
COFFEE	2257-2254
COFFEE	2266-2263
COFFEE	2275-2272
COFFEE	2284-2281
COFFEE	2293-2290
COFFEE	2302-2299
COFFEE	2311-2308
COFFEE	2320-2317
COFFEE	2329-2326
COFFEE	2338-2335
COFFEE	2347-2344
COFFEE	2356-2353
COFFEE	2365-2362
COFFEE	2374-2371
COFFEE	2383-2380
COFFEE	2392-2389
COFFEE	2401-2398
COFFEE	2410-2407
COFFEE	2419-2416
COFFEE	2428-2425
COFFEE	2437-2434
COFFEE	2446-2443
COFFEE	2455-2452
COFFEE	2464-2461
COFFEE	2473-2470
COFFEE	2482-2479
COFFEE	2491-248

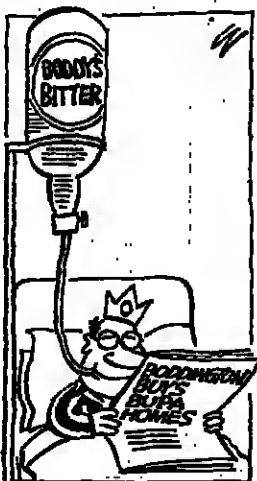
THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Invisible woman

HELP! Is there anybody out there who can assist Alison Wright, Director-General of British Invisibles, who has been racking her brains to find a more accessible name for her organisation? Hosting seminars and conferences in such exotic places as Beirut and St Petersburg this year, BI's leadership has become aware of how bewildering a concept "invisibles" can be to a foreign audience. "British Invisibles" would be no improvement for a body that promotes the export of almost everything other than physical goods. And therein lies another catch. So many City firms these days are not British-owned that it might be better if the "British" half of BI's name were to vanish too, Wright suggests. Helpful suggestions to *The Times* City Diary, please — and my assurance that, if you so desire, your name will also remain invisible.

Role model

IT SHOWS a refreshing lack of vanity for Kenneth Clarke to choose for his Christmas card a cartoon of a rather portly former Chancellor, Sir William Harcourt, double-breasted jacket popping at the buttons. But the blurb on Sir William inside the card shows other qualities with which our Ken clearly empathises. Chancellor for two stints in the nineteenth century, Sir William smoked cigars. His legal mind sharpened his political rhetoric, and he was a master of picturesque invective, sarcasm and paradox. He had a robust approach and was regarded as never happier than when fighting a hopeless battle against overwhelming odds — a coded message to John Major? Sir William once described the Chancellor as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness". So far, so familiar. Then we are told he had an acute appreciation of the role of politicians, declaring: "The Minister exists to tell the Civil Servant what the public will not stand." VAT on fuel, perhaps?



Pre-emptive buy

THE *Financial Times* is pressing ahead with plans to print in Sweden in January, despite a little local difficulty from one Stefan Berj, of Malmö. In August, Berj, aged 29, paid 10,000 kronor (£855) to register the names of ten international papers including the *FT*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *National Geographic*. He was given printing rights for six months. "We don't know what Mr Berj wants," said Pjotr Sonezon at the Swedish office of Patents and Registrations. "He doesn't have to give any motives for protecting the name. But we have learnt that representatives of the *Financial Times* were surprised and very unhappy with the news." The *FT* won't say if or how much it might have had to pay to print the pink 'un.

HOW appropriate that Toad Innovations, the high-tech car security company, in which first dealings start today, has appointed Stirling Moss as a consultant. Pip Pip!

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



Right on a world scale, but wrong on the home front

My financial and economic forecasts were blown slightly off course in the past year

This is an article I would rather not be writing. On January 6, I made some unconventional financial and economic predictions for this year, as I usually do in the first Economic View of each year. For 1995, I shall be offering readers the same service (or disservice) on January 11. But first, I must review my last predictions, which this year is a less than pleasant experience.

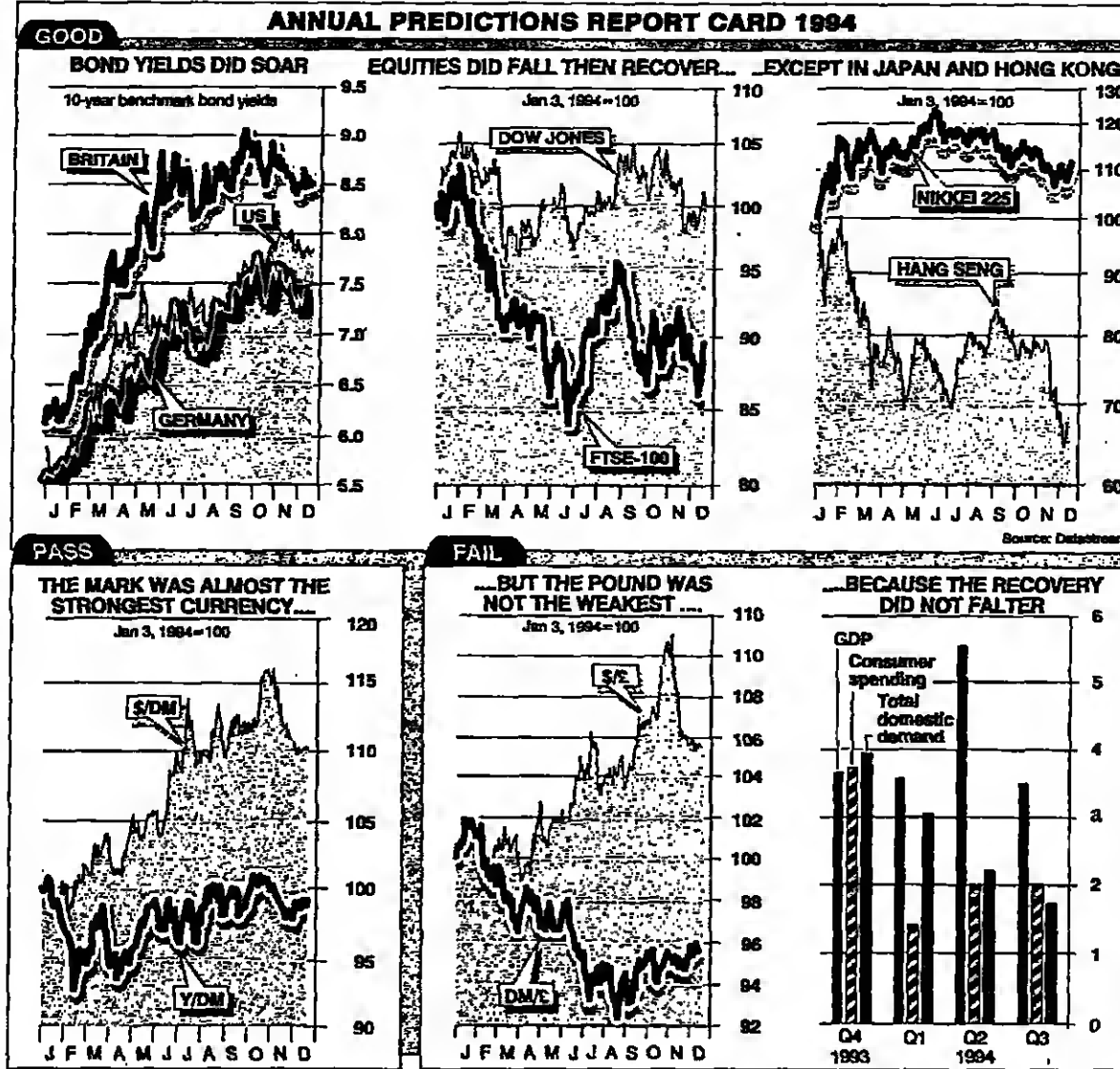
While some of my financial forecasts worked out quite well — my main theme in January was the imminent collapse of the global bull market in bonds, and I was broadly right about currencies and world stockmarkets — I failed on all of the big economic issues. And since I am paid to analyse the economy, not offer investment tips, being right on some of the markets is small consolation for being wrong on monetary policy, inflation and growth.

Nevertheless, let me begin with the good news — though not for the former employees of eminent investment firms like Goldman Sachs, Kidder Peabody and SG Warburg. By last January, bond prices had been rising almost vertically for three years as the world learned to enjoy the new era of low inflation. The self-styled "bond market vigilantes" who prided themselves on being the first to spot any glimmer of economic overheating, were themselves in a state of speculative overheating the like of which had not been seen since Wall Street in 1987.

With ten-year interest rates on German, American and even French government debt down to 5.5 per cent, there was only one reason to go on buying bonds. This was the so-called "bigger fool theory": however overpriced bonds seemed today, a bigger fool would pay even more for them tomorrow. As I said in January, once the bigger fool comes into the market, it is usually time to head for the exit. Only a catalyst was needed for the bull market to collapse. This duly appeared on February 4, when the Federal Reserve raised American interest rates to 3.25 per cent.

Everyone supposedly "knew" that US monetary policy would be tightened. But markets in a speculative fever never truly discount the future, even when it stares them in the face. Even I, as a self-avowed bear, was actually caught up in the bullish fever. I guessed in January that German yields would rise above 6.5 per cent and British rates above 7 per cent — and thought I was being daring. In the event, ten-year yields shot up to 8.5 per cent in Britain and over 7.5 per cent in Germany and America.

Stock markets round the world also tumbled, as expected, once bonds gave way. But so savage was the shakeout in bonds that the relative performance of the two markets defied previous experience. Stock markets usually magnify the gyrations of bonds, but this time they proved more stable, confirming, against the conventional wisdom, that equities offered better fundamental value than bonds at the end of last year. In London, the FT-SE 100 index fell 16 per cent from its year-end level to the



low point of 2,876.6 on June 24 — quite close to my guesstimate of a 20 per cent decline. The stock market subsequently recovered, as expected. My view that "most stock markets could end 1994 not far from where they started" was slightly too bullish for London, which remains 8 per cent down on the year. But it proved exactly right for New York, where the Dow is now within 0.5 per cent of its close at 3,782 on December 31.

I felt there would be three main exceptions to the general rule of "first the bad news then the good news" for financial markets: Tokyo, Hong Kong and Italy. Tokyo was expected to withstand the worldwide setback in the first half of the year, which it did. Hong Kong, on the other hand, began the year amid the wildest possible speculative hysteria and totally ignoring the impending crash in China. I saw Hong Kong as the bear's best hunting ground for 1994 and suggested stock prices there could easily halve. In the event, the Hong Kong market was the world's worst performer, but not by as wide a margin as expected. The Hang Seng index dropped 37 per cent from its peak on January 5 to its low of 7,707 on December 12. It is now 31 per cent down. So far the drop has been slow and uneventful, which suggests that the worst is not over. Rather than make excuses for being over-optimistic on Hong Kong, therefore, I will simply extend my prediction of a spectacular crash.

For Italy, by contrast, I was bullish — and, of course, completely wrong. But that was an error of politics, not economics. Nobody expected Silvio Berlusconi, with his conflicts of interest and vulnerable business empire, to become Italy's next prime minister.

With Mr Berlusconi in trouble, it may be time to reinstate a bullish view. On currencies, this year's predictions were also tolerably successful. It was, as expected, a "generally dull year for the foreign exchanges". Pace George Soros, who lost \$600 million on yen-dollar trading in February alone, no leading currency moved by more than 10 per cent on its trade-weighted index at any time in 1994. Against this dull background, I felt the strongest main currency would be the mark, which was then widely shunned by the experts. I was almost right. While the yen ended 1 per cent stronger, the mark was the year's best main currency investment if relative interest rates are taken into account. It was certainly a better bet than the dollar or pound, which most experts were then backing.

Where my currency predictions went badly awry was where I made all my worst mistakes — at home, in Britain. I wrongly said the pound would be the world's weakest major currency, when it turned out less weak than the dollar. I also predicted that the gap between German and British bond yields would narrow; it widened from 0.6 to 1.1 percentage points. Worse still, I said that short-term interest rates would fall to 4 per cent; they rose to 6.25 per cent.

All of these errors arose directly from a deeper and more embarrassing misjudgment. I failed to see the strength of the economic recovery in Britain, or more precisely, the strength of demand for British goods from abroad. In my view the deflationary impact of the 1993 Budget had not been sufficiently offset by the half-point cut in interest rates to 5.5 per cent. "As a result," I said, "recovery is likely to falter in the spring

and growth in 1994 will remain around 2 per cent instead of accelerating to 3 per cent, as forecast by the Treasury." The markets, I claimed, would perceive the need for lower interest rates, while the Bank of England would resist. The result would be a crisis of confidence and a further weakening of the economy. As on White Wednesday, the Government would finally be brought to its senses but only after a run on the pound.

Today, all this sounds ridiculously melodramatic. Growth in the last four quarters has been not 2 or 3 per cent, but 4.2 per cent. Far from faltering in the spring, the recovery has accelerated, with non-oil GDP growth rising from 0.8 per cent in the first quarter to 1.2 per cent in the second and 0.9 per cent in the third.

Yet delving more closely into the figures, my blunders last January are easier to understand, if not excuse. Higher taxes and tight monetary policy did deflate the economy, but only on the domestic side — which is just what Keynesian economics would have predicted. What I had failed to anticipate was the boost to British exports from devaluation and the growth of demand abroad.

Growth in domestic demand did slow to 2 per cent this year, as expected — and that sluggishness applied to investment as much as consumer spending. Yet total output accelerated, entirely because of extraordinary export growth: up 14 per cent in the year to September.

The key question for Britain in 1995 is whether this remarkable export performance will continue, or whether the recovery will now crumble as domestic demand slows. Some answers, though probably not the right ones, on January 11.

Reports lead to feel-good confusion

From Mr C.A. Cheetham
Sir, Re: "Feel-good" factor. I'm a redundant blue-collar worker, aged 62. I'm puzzled.

In Anatole Kaletsky's analysis of the American dollar he suggests in one column that America needs to shift away from manufacturing whilst in the next column he suggests America turn to manufacturing. It appears he is advocating a stronger dollar but ends his article warning of the dangers of an escalating currency.

Across the page Philip Bassett reports on the employment/unemployment in this country, stating that from the government figures the banking, finance and insurance sector upped the employment figures by 52,000.

On your front page you report a finance house cutting jobs by 900. Over recent months the papers have reported job losses by all the major banks, utilities and

traffic. This is acceptable. The Channel Tunnel must create traffic or it is a failure.

In short, improved transport whether by road, rail or air heightens the quality of life.

Yours faithfully
SIR IAN MORROW
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1.

No surprise

From Sir Ian Morrow
Sir, It cannot come as a surprise that improved roads appeal to the user and increase traffic.

Airlines buy expensive jets and demand improved airport facilities designed to increase

finance houses. It doesn't seem logical to me that these companies cut jobs on one hand and create employment on the other!

I just don't know what to believe — and I'm sure I'm not alone.

Yours faithfully
C.A. CHEETHAM,
19 St Dominic Park,
Harrowbarrow,
Cornwall.

Some threat

From Sir Alan Neale
Sir, Six months ago in May, the Retail Prices Index stood at 144.7. Now I see that the November figure is 145.3. This means that it has advanced over the six-month period by the great amount of 0.6 per cent.

Can the market pundits and the Governor be aware of these figures? If they are, what on earth persuades them that the country has to fear renewed threats of inflation.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN NEALE
95 Swains Lane, N6.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Telekom chief's departure sets off alarm bells

Colin Narbrough on a row at Europe's biggest telecommunications company

Deutsche Telekom, Europe's biggest telecommunications company, urgently needs a new management board chairman.

The unexpected resignation of Helmut Rieke on December 9 came only three weeks before Telekom, whose annual turnover is DM65 billion, is converted into a joint stock company in preparation for partial privatisation in early 1996.

Herr Rieke's departure — "on personal grounds" — prompted alarm in the financial world, especially among those investment banks and institutions still glowing from their success in securing a chunk of the DM15 billion first slice of the Telekom privatisation issue.

The departure of Herr Rieke, who was appointed in 1990 and was supposed to stay until the end of 1996 to see through the first stage of privatisation, caused dismay in corporate Germany.

Senior executives who like to market the dependability of Germany did not like having a surprise like this sprung on them at a crucial moment.

Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrat-dominated coalition has been keen to dispose of state assets to try to reduce the public-sector deficit, which ballooned

ing regulations for a large part of the 23,000 staff, into a smoothly working organisation suited to current market conditions.

The federal Government's demands for billions of marks from Telekom's profits to be handed over to prop up the loss-making postal service and postal bank had also been a major source of irritation to Herr Rieke as privatisation neared. In addition, he had clashed with Herr Bötsch on pricing policy and the manner in which the Government awarded operating licences to Telekom competitors.

Given the scale of the privatisation — the biggest in Europe and the second in the world after NTT of Japan — Herr Rieke had tried to keep his hands as free as possible from political interference. Coming from Loewe Opta, the telecommunications equipment maker, he knew the business very well from the hardware side.

His fraught relations with Herr Bötsch were not simply a matter of personal bad chemistry. They highlighted what has been widely recognised as a lack of necessary distance between the state as owner of Telekom and the state as its regulator. Under present plans, the boards of the holding company that will be responsible for Telekom will be bedecked with well known politicians. Critics of Herr Rieke accuse him of being incapable of crucial decisions and

Plans to turn Telekom into a modern group were repeatedly frustrated

of being short on strategic vision for the huge company now going to market. The fact that he appears to have made wrong calls on key partnership deals has fuelled criticism from industry analysts about his abilities.

Brussels rejected a pay-TV link-up with France Telecom and two German media groups. The European Commission is also understood to harbour doubts about the central alliance between the French and German telecoms on the ground that they could dominate Europe. The link between the two and Sprint, the US long distance carrier, may still not go beyond the memorandum of understanding.

Wilhelm Pällmann, a Telekom director, has stepped in as the interim chief. Among those tipped to get the top job, Gerd Tenzer, the technical director, is the favourite at the moment. Another scenario that has been gaining favour is that Herr Bötsch plans to seize the moment and replace the whole management team. That is one way to start down the road to the private sector.



Helmut Rieke, a political novice from the private sector

THE TIMES Management videos offer

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Equities advance in late trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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BANKS

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
323	125	124	Barclays Bank	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
324	125	124	HSBC Bank	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
325	125	124	London City	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
326	125	124	Midland Bank	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
327	125	124	NatWest Bank	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
328	125	124	Paragon Bank	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
329	125	124	Prudential	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
330	125	124	Royal Bank	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
331	125	124	Santander	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
332	125	124	TSB Bank	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
333	125	124	Yorkshire Bank	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

DISTRIBUTORS

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
127	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
128	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
129	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
130	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
131	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
132	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
133	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
134	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
135	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
136	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

BREWERIES

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
185	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
186	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
187	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
188	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
189	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
190	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
191	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
192	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
193	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
194	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
305	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
306	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
307	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
308	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
309	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
310	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
311	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
312	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
313	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
314	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

ELECTRICITY

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
854	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
855	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
856	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
857	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
858	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
859	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
860	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
861	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
862	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
863	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
108	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
109	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
110	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
111	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
112	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
113	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
114	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
115	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
116	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
117	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

BUILDING MATERIALS

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
341	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
342	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
343	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
344	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
345	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
346	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
347	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
348	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
349	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
350	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

BUSINESS SERVICES

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
110	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
111	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
112	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
113	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
114	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
115	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
116	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
117	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
118	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
119	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

CHEMICALS

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
150	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
151	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
152	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
153	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
154	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
155	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
156	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
157	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
158	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
159	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
65	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
66	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
67	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
68	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
69	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
70	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
71	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
72	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
73	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
74	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
60	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
61	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
62	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
63	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
64	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
65	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
66	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
67	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
68	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
69	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

HEALTHCARE

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
544	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
545	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
546	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
547	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
548	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
549	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
550	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
551	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
552	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
553	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1994	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
31	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
32	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
33	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
34	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
35	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
36	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
37	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
38	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
39	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
40	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3

INSURANCE

125	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
126	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
127	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
128	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
129	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3
130	125	124	Admiral	124.50	+0.25	4.4%	14.3



BUILDINGS page 32
They asked for a theatre; he gave them a giant temple: Bofill's Barcelona masterpiece

ARTS

THEATRE page 33
Not even loud blasts of rock music can lift a lacklustre new staging of Peter Pan



Sly and the familiar Stone

CINEMA: Even the bangs are more like whimpers as two supposedly explosive stars meet in *The Specialist*, says Geoff Brown

Hollywood is playing Scrooge again. Cross the Atlantic, and you can spend your Christmas watching Tom Cruise bare his fangs in *Interview with the Vampire*. Patrick Stewart and William Shatner are wrestling with destiny in *Star Trek: Generations*. Michael Douglas and Demi Moore experience sexual harassment in *Disclosure*. Stay in Britain, and what do you get? The leftovers.

Since *The Specialist*, opening on Boxing Day, features Sylvester Stallone sharing bed, shower and floor with another body beautiful, Sharon Stone, you might expect Class A movie fireworks. There are fireworks, all right. Semtex secreted in cigarette cases, lockets and the edges of hotel windows regularly reduces buildings and people to rubble and ash. But the film remains undistinguished, crassly conceived for the most undemanding muncher of popcorn.

Just watching blood and bodies going through the air gets to you, doesn't it? Stallone barks at James Woods, a fellow demolition expert in Miami, who treats the universe as something to slap, kick or explode for his delight. There is no cause for Stallone to feel morally superior. His character's own conscience is paper-thin, and if audiences take no pleasure watching blood and bodies fly, they will take pleasure watching little else.

Not even Stone and Stallone, the ice Vamp and Rambo, locked in ardour? To be sure, this coupling has curiosity value. But *The Specialist*, directed by Luis Llosa, proves oddly hesitant about capitalising on its assets. In the early stages, Stallone and Stone do not even brush against each other: they communicate by phone. Only once he accepts her offer of avenging her parents' murder do the two bodies become briefly entangled.

The sex scenes were shot, at Stallone's request, behind locked

The Specialist

Warner West End
15.110 mins
Sylvester Stallone meets Sharon Stone, but sparks fail to fly

D2: The Mighty Ducks

Warner West End
U.107 mins
Stale adventures of a junior ice hockey team

doors, with a skeleton crew who signed legal documents to ensure they never leaked trade secrets. The results on screen, though, never sent my temperature soaring. I noted dispassionately that Stallone's breasts were only slightly smaller than his partner's, and that veins stood out on his arms and neck like highways on a road map. And was that a nasty injection mark on Miss Stone's upper left arm? These are not scenes to inspire erotic thoughts.

Thoughts of any kind are scarcely warranted by the script, derived from a series of novels by John Shirley. The plot is built on quicksand, and any inquiry into the characters' motives will prompt a collapse. Surface is everything, from Stallone's dull masculinity and Stone's computerised sex appeal to the supporting cast's line-up of goons, sharks and snakes.

Here, at least, some colour enters. As Stallone's rival explosives expert, Woods glares at the world through reptilian eyes and delights in spitting out venom. Eric Roberts sinks amusingly through scenes as the sleazy son of the Latin American crime boss who wiped out Stone's parents. The boss himself is Rod Steiger: it is good to see this under-used resource back



It takes a real man to get into a clinch with Sharon Stone and not check under the bed for ice-picks, but — hey! — Sylvester Stallone is up to the task in *The Specialist*

in a major Hollywood film, although he gives the kind of mannered performance that can lead only to worse parts in even worse movies.

For there are worse movies. The stunt and special effects teams do their work well, and cars, buildings and bodies burn prettily. But for a film that brings together two sacred monsters of the screen, *The Specialist* is lazy, cynical trash, and lets its potential go up in smoke.

Next in Hollywood's Christmas stocking is *D2: The Mighty Ducks*, a feeble sequel to the 1992 film about a junior ice-hockey team from Minnesota, starring Emilio Estevez. In central London alone *D2* is booked into seven unfortunate cinemas; its most suitable home is the video shop bargain bin.

For British consumption the first *Mighty Ducks* film had its title changed to *Champions*. But the franchise name does not matter. It could also be *Major League*. The

Bad News Bears, or any of the other tags used for Hollywood series about a rag-tag sports team and their coach who succeed against the odds.

For the sequel, Steven Brill, the original scriptwriter, has left no cliché unturned. Honest amateur sport versus the lure of big bucks. How to live up to a father's dream. The importance of team spirit, self-respect and national pride.

On the latter point, *D2* proves as forthright as a wartime propaganda film. "America is a teenager, just like you," the team's woman tutor tells them as they prepare to participate as their country's national team in the Junior Goodwill Games in Los Angeles. "A bit awkward at times, but right there on the verge of greatness."

The film takes its metaphor embarrassingly seriously. Scan the faces of the Ducks and you find a rainbow coalition of Hispanics, Jews, Texas good ol' boys, nimble

Koreans, and one plucky Wasp female goalie. The only major group omitted from the spectrum appears to be Native Americans.

As Estevez's coach loses his way among LA's bright lights, and the players lose games, you clutch at straws to keep awake. The bouncy young actors at least offset the perfunctory blank face which is all Estevez seems able to offer. Under director Sam Weisman, the ice-hockey footage sparks modest excitement. But the most interesting aspect of this ordinary film is probably the team cast as the villain, bruisers dressed in black who reduce the Ducks to abject squawks. They hail from Iceland.

Since Iceland's population is roughly the size of Southampton's, you have to question how they can field a champion team shaped like Greek gods while America can only muster a row of squirts, and a true ice-hockey giant such as Canada gets eliminated in the early rounds.

To make matters stranger, many of the Icelanders bear German names; while the frozen snarl on the face of their coach (played by Carsten Norgaard) would not disgrace an SS officer.

The plot's credibility is further weakened by its attitude to sports sponsorship. For a while, Estevez's eyes gleam at the money he can make endorsing sports goods and breakfast cereals. Then he sees the light, and burns his advertising cut-out in an oil drum.

But what does the film do? Plug away at assorted products: linger on the gleaming arena built in Anaheim for the real-life Ducks, a National Hockey League team created in honour of the original film.

Enough, enough. Neither of the week's new films warrants a Christmas trek to the cinema. Best catch up on past glories, wait for those of the future, or read a good book.

JAZZ

Humphrey the rebel rouser

WATCHING the jovial, avuncular figure of Humphrey Lyttelton putting his band gently through their paces at the Bull's Head in Barnes, west London, it is almost impossible to convince oneself that he was once a deeply controversial figure in the jazz world.

Even his current front line, which features two saxophonists alongside the leader's trumpet and Pete Strange's trombone, would once have raised the hackles of die-hard jazz traditionalists, who regarded the saxophone as the serpent in their particular Eden, and once famously raised a banner, saying: "Go home, dirty bopper!" to greet Lyttelton's first saxophonist, the late Bruce Turner, in 1953. But it is now more than 40 years since Lyttelton wrote his celebrated apology in *Jazz Journal* explaining his apparent desertion from the traditionalists' ranks and, in a jazz world where not only saxophones but all manner of so-called non-traditional instruments are commonplace, the bitter feuding of the early 1950s can seem bizarre in its passionate insularity.

Of course, as with many pioneers, Lyttelton's very success has appeared to mitigate his radicalism, so the fact that his Bull's Head audience enthusiastically applauded, say, "Stealin' The Bean", which involved a saxophone chase sequence between alto man Jimmy Hastings and tenor player Alan Barnes, passed unremarked.

Indeed, almost the entire repertoire played by the Lyttelton septet at this hugely enjoyable, relaxed gig would once have been regarded as dangerously heretical, consisting as it did of mainstream swingers providing platforms for strings of solos rather than New Orleans traditional fare, collectively improvised.

Bernie and Buster Moten's "Moten Swing", Johnny Green's "I Cover The Waterfront", Jimmy McHugh's "Foggy", and many more showcased the band's supremely easy-going but musically disciplined approach, and all the soloists were given ample space to shine.

Lyttelton himself, now 73, has lost little of his fire and grace as an improviser. Pete Strange's trombone contributions are as cultured as ever, and pianist Stan Greig is still featured in a rousing boogie-woogie interlude, backed just by bassist Paul Bridge and drummer Adrian Macintosh.

CHRIS PARKER

GALLERIES: The debt young talent owes to collectors Robert and Susan Kasen Summer; plus a Pre-Raphaelite centenary show

American boost for British art

When a wealthy American couple, Robert and Susan Kasen Summer, visited Glasgow ten years or so ago, a group of pictures by unknown painters caught their eye. Since then the Summers have quietly become the fairy godparents of Britain's best young artists. Now, for the first time, a major part of their collection of contemporary British art, recognised as the finest in America, has gone on show — appropriately, in Glasgow.

The exhibition at the McLellan Galleries is crucial, both for the collection's future and for that of many anxious new artists. "It is our chance to evaluate what we've done and make a determination as to whether we have reached an end or if we should continue more aggressively," says Robert Summer, president of Sony Entertainment Europe, who has kept an even lower profile as a collector than Charles Saatchi. His wife runs her own company, developing 3-D technology.

Among 100 or so paintings in the exhibition, "An American Passion", are works by Steven Campbell, Peter Howson and Ken Currie, whom Susan tracked down and befriended, becoming their first buyer before any gallery signed them up. "We sensed something special, a fundamental departure from the mainstream of contemporary painting," her husband says. "We began to question where this art was coming from, and that led us to distinguish between the different roots in the north and south of Britain, finding links with the Scottish colourists and Sickert and then working back again through Bomberg and Matthew Smith and Kossoff and Auerbach and up to the present."

But as their lakeside home in Connecticut began to overflow with dozens and soon hundreds of British artworks, some extremely large and extrovert, the couple decided they could do more. Young

artists, however good they might be, needed help. It was a hard lesson that had been at the back of Susan's mind since her own student days, when she was offered a fashion job in Manhattan. "My parents had just divorced and I wanted to go to New York and live with my very dear aunt and uncle," she says. "But instead they said, drop in when you're settled."

Help, in the Summers' terms, does not mean doing anything by halves. Three years ago the couple began providing studio space for artists for six months at a time — with travelling, food and lodging expenses all paid — to give them a head start after leaving art school, usually the Royal College with which the Summers have established a foundation. No other private individuals offer British artists such an opportunity. "It gives them time to rebuild their juices with no pressure," Robert says. "An artist has had his whole life to build up to his graduation show. Then he or she is expected to go and start banging out pictures and come up with a new body of work in months, without a gallery and with all sorts of financial demands."

The studios are in a converted old electrical factory close to the Summers' home, where artists in residence become part of the family. Friends and parents visit, it is an easy trip to see the New York museums and galleries and, as a bonus, the Summers' own acquaintances are ready-made buyers as well as themselves. The Summers ask nothing of the artists except perhaps a small work to give the local garageman in return for the loan of a vehicle.

"It's better than putting money in stocks and shares," Robert says. "We have the pleasure of seeing the art on the walls every day and, having it going on all around us, with the kids out there painting." It is also a self-fulfilling investment. Being picked out by the



A Wing and a Prayer (1987), by Peter Howson, one of the growing band of artists found and fostered by the Summers

Summers, just as by Saatchi, means being taken seriously.

So far the Summers have had 20 resident artists and the biggest problem, if any, has been their generosity. "It's quite hard to come to terms with when you're used to having to battle for everything. It seems too good to be true," says James Robinson, one of their most recent recruits, whose striking, minimally abstract work is in the current show.

Robinson's work, though, is uncharacteristic of the exhibition and the Summers collection as a whole. The majority of works are figurative and painterly, with a large number of pictures by John Bellamy. "It is a great compliment that such top-tier American collectors find British painting to be the best in the world, and it is a huge boost to my morale that they have shown such faith in my talent," Bellamy says. The Summers say

that the only bad moment came when a Bellamy work at their home proved to be too heavy for its mounting and eventually fell off the wall.

The exhibition (sponsored by British Airways, Henderson Boyd Jackson Solicitors and Unilever) has been chosen, catalogued and hung by senior curators of the Glasgow Museums and the Royal College of Art in London, where it will go on view next October.

The Summers agreed to the show after loaning several other paintings back to Glasgow. "But we've kept right out of organising it," Robert says. "We wanted a surprise."

ALISON BECKETT

● An American Passion: The Kasen Summer Collection of Contemporary British Painting is at McLellan Galleries, 270 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041-331 1854), until March 5

The passive Rossetti

The problem with poets as subjects for exhibitions is that there is not much to look at. Glass cases containing first editions and notebooks only mock the window-shopper's impotence to leaf through the concealed pages. There can be extracts from diaries, sketches of the author, letters; but whereas in visual art the primacy of the original is supreme, in the appreciation of literature originals are of only arcane, fetishistic interest. Readers are usually content with the glib reproductions of the printing press.

Christina Rossetti died 100 years ago on December 29. One of a handful of female poets to find a place in the Victorian canon, her proximity to the Pre-Raphaelite movement through her brother, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, ensured her peripheral importance to the art world as well as the literary, and this small but intelligently formed National Portrait Gallery exhibition is a fitting commemoration of her century.

Christina drew very little. In the exhibition there is an 1837 copy of Keble's *The Christian Year* with pencil drawings youthfully graffitied on the pages, as well as her simple illustrations in a holograph manuscript of *Sing Song*. But it is the illustrations to her work by Laurence Housman, Arthur Rackham and Dante Gabriel that are worth lingering over.

Christina's lasting contribution to art was as a model, and the gems of the exhibition are the colourful oils of the Pre-Raphaelite movement's major figures. There are many of the sketches Dante Gabriel made of Christina throughout her life, as well as the first of his major oils, *The Girlhood of Mary Virgin* (1848-9), which he based on her likeness. He continued to paint her throughout their respective careers until the sickly spinster of his 1877 portrait, heavy-lidded and bulging-eyed from the ravages of Grave's disease.

As a result of her posing role, and her frequenting of Dante Gabriel's Cheyne Walk home, she fell in with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and became a particular friend of Swinburne, as well as John Millais,



Christina Rossetti, the eternal sister, depicted by her brother

Holman Hunt and Burne Jones, all of whom are well represented in the exhibition.

There is a cartoon by Dante Gabriel of the poet "in a tantrum" — which offers a comical view of an otherwise miserable figure — and spookily serious photographs of the family by Lewis Carroll. There is Dante Gabriel's *Ecce Ancilla Domini!*, whose dazzling white colour scheme caused an outcry. In this, as in many of the pictures for which she sat, Christina's face is worked into perfect Pre-Raphaelite beauty as the Virgin, rather than the plain, homely look of the straight portraits.

The poetry is rather passed over, existing in extracts on side installations and in the spidery handwriting of some notebook pages. The full text of *Goblin Market*, her one real triumph, is nowhere to be seen (though Dante Gabriel's original engravings for it are here).

But this is an exhibition, not an anthology, and its success is that it acknowledges Christina's passive contributions to the culture as much as her active ones. Her own claims to be taken seriously always struggle in the background.

GILES COREN

● Christina Rossetti 1830-1894, at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (071-306 0055), until February 12

THEATRE: A noisy but unedifying production of J.M. Barrie's children's classic; plus other new shows

Lost boys still more confused

The first intimation that something is amiss at the Cambridge comes as we settle, or rather cower, in our seats. Blinding red-and-white spotlights swoop across the auditorium to the sound of clangorous rock. Maybe we are in for an evening with Tinkerbell's tough-guy cousins: the Tankerbells of Dagenham, with their killer strobes, or the Tankerbells of Catford, who never go out without sunrises and flashguns in their weapon-belts.

As it turns out, no such luck. At least that would bring a bit of beef to what turns out to be a pretty bloodless event. The cast blazes out Peter Chatterbox's music. Heavy miking adds impact if not clarity. But there is a strange lack of energy in the production which is also by Chatterbox-Robinson. J.M. Barrie, noting the musical's subtitle, might have felt that less Englishness and more doctory Scottishness would have made a better British balance.

The original text is only a little altered. There are no mermaids, which is understandable, for mermaids don't come cheap these days. Ron Moody's Hook goes to his watery grave, not with a caddish snort of "fleeat Etona", but with an oddly inappropriate Dickensian mumble: "it is a far, far better thing I do". There is also a tired topical joke — "nobody loves me, I might as well be Prime Minister" — from the same source.

Perhaps Chatterbox-Robinson should have taken more liberties with Barrie. As it is, his main contribution is to interpolate songs which, though always spirited and sometimes tuneful, do little for the show's momentum. The lyrics, also by him, fail greatly to impress even when they don't sound as if they are being muzzily delivered from inside a tin box. "Open your eyes, what do you see?" sings Nicola

Peter Pan: The British Musical Cambridge

Stapleton's Peter to Debbie Wall's Wendy. "I can't be the person you want me to be." Myself, I prefer Barrie's discreet silence on the embarrassing subject of pubescent love. Or perhaps we should be grateful that so much of Barrie survives, albeit in a lacklustre form. We can at least spend the oddities that insist on pouring out of his creative unconscious. So much of him is to be found in the tale of the eternal boy: the yearning for the maternal affection, the defensive idealisation of childhood; the fear of sex that was to make his own marriage a disaster; the mistrust of fathers.

Nobody should need reminding that the actor playing Hook normally plays Mr Darling too, and that Mr Darling, whose boorishness is largely responsible for the loss of his children, literally ends up in the doghouse. There is no change to tradition at the Cambridge. Moody is variously seen playing the paterfamilias, growling balefully from inside his black-spangled wig, and sneaking apologetically into the kennel.

With his genial malice and ravaged face (at some stage a glazier must have passed over it, leaving it full of crevices and fossils) Moody's Hook is as near to a success as the evening offers. It is difficult to rouse comparable enthusiasm for Stapleton, though her Peter does have some brisk, down-right moments, or for Wall, whose Wendy reacts to capture by pirates of herself and her brood rather than the way a Jane Austen heroine might react to stepping into a puddle.



Lacklustre adaptation of Barrie: Ron Moody (Captain Hook), Harry Dickman (Smeck), Nicola Stapleton (Peter Pan). Drawing by Bill Hewison

Garden filled with delights

The Secret Garden Watermill, Bagnor

The evening's worst moment probably comes when they exchange cliché *au revoirs* — "don't say goodbye, it's not the end, I'm never far away" — in some hideously shrill upper register. But that encounter faces stiff competition from goofy lost boys, bumbling pirates, and Tinkerbell's near-death experience. Barrie clearly wanted the audience to save the flickering flambeau by spontaneously proclaiming its belief in fairies, and in my experience it always does so. Here, the credulous voices have been pre-recorded and come artificially banging out from loudspeakers all over the theatre. It's a mistake. All too characteristic of the evening.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Vital to the success of any adaptation of this superb tale is a credibly neglected garden, and a final meeting between embittered father and revitalised son that sets the tear-ducts working. *Jeremy Kingston writes.* Claire Lyth's clever set manages the first of these, and speaking for my own tear-ducts, Gary Raymond and young Billy Worth achieve the second. Raymond goes further. Though dressed throughout in funeral black, and never permitting a smile to lighten his pinched face, his faraway voice is always gentle. He moves carefully, every step bringing some reminder of his

tragic past. At his first glimpse of his niece, the orphaned Mary Lennox, he is reminded of his dead wife, and his fixed expression and breaking voice are infinitely touching. This adaptation is the musical version by Diana Morgan and Steven Markwick, originally written for the King's Head, Islington, and currently being revived there as the Christmas show. To be honest, the story does not need music except where it allows Raymond's Mr Craven the opportunity to convey his grief in words and, in an earlier scene, when Claire Russell's Mary (a good performance) can articulate her loneliness. These two songs show us feelings beyond the reach of dialogue.

But the jolly song for Gaye Brown's Mrs Medlock, recalling what fun life used to be, and the hymn to roses from Ben Weatherstaff (Kenneth Waller), add nothing important. Markwick makes some neat musical allusions — Edwardian music-hall for Mrs Medlock, Indian riffs for "The Little Rajah" — but the nearest occurs in a song from Tim Godwin's *Dickon* that incorporates the notes from a robin.

By this time we are in the secret garden, first seen through gauzy panels in the brick wall but now occupying the full width of the stage, where the robin is darting up and down the ivy. Frogs have already hopped through a pool, and soon badgers and a fox will emerge from holes and a stout too. Ian Talbot's direction keeps the scenes flowing, though fiercer tantrums are needed from Billy Worth's Colin. Everyone ends up in the secret garden in time for Raymond to sing "Is this the boy I looked away/standing straight and true?" and by then it is tissue-time.

RECITAL

Lack of festive spirit

Elizabeth Connell Wigmores Hall

NOBODY could accuse the Wigmores Hall's Christmas concerts of predictability this year. But the strenuous efforts to research ever more obscure programmes does sometimes seem to take its toll of the performance.

After a weekend "Christmas Cracker" which didn't exactly live up to its name, soprano Elizabeth Connell and Eugene Asti, her pianist, gave a "Christmas Recital" whose enterprising breadth of material was not quite matched by an equal range and energy of performing skills.

Not that Connell was in bad voice. It was simply that, whether she turned to a hushed meditation by Hugo Wolf, a "Bush Christmas" by Wendy Hiscoks, or an Andalusian carol, everything seemed to live in much the same emotional register, the same pleasing, but ultimately bland, tone of voice.

The sudden moments of real engagement with word, music and therefore audience, came when she was able to recreate a little dramatic scene: the urgent presence for instance, of "St Ita's Vision" from one of Samuel Barber's *Hermit Songs*, or the bright advent of the Angel of New Year as her voice rang out in Wolf's "Zum neuen Jahr".

Connell, who has a formidable string of Wagner projects ahead of her, perhaps really does need the smell of grease-paint now in order to focus her performance and musicianship.

It was good to hear the lesser known Peter Cornelius Christmas songs which frame the famous "Three Kings". It was refreshing to listen to the unaccompanied Dutch ballad, "The Little Shepherds" and to hear Fauré's "Noël". But the unique flavour of their musical and verbal languages was not really tasted to the full. Similarly, the final number from Jerry Herman's *Mame* was over the top of the footlights. Being musically festive is not quite as easy as draping the tinsel over the tree.

HILARY FINCH

First-class return to ghost town

Skaville Cockpit, NW8

The programme for Paul Sirett's enjoyable though short play comes dressed as an EP record. It has its own plain sleeve with a circle cut out in the centre, and its title printed there in the style of ska's best-known record label, the black and white of 2-Tone.

I had forgotten how exhilarating ska could be, and we hear good chunks of it during the scene-changes. There were the Specials, who revived it in the late 1970s, the Beat, Madness and the Selecter, one of whose members was Sirett himself, so the play's provenance is impeccable.

Except for one brief scene on a beach, the action is set in a record shop that, at the start of the play, is down at heel and doing no business. Its owner, Martin (Gregory Campbell), declining into grumpy middle-age at 33, is making the serious mistake of playing a Mozart piano concerto when Eddie (Clint Dyer), an unstoppable loquacious young black guy, breezes into the shop and talks himself into a job by showing he knows where to get hold of illegal ska tapes and indie records.

Jane (Tara Hull), from the local Key Mart and her thick-skinned boyfriend Daz (Ben Joseph) complete a quartet whose lives we follow over the next two years, until Daz's

decline into skinhead fascism brings the tragedy of the final scenes, and ska peters out.

Skaville is produced by Abacus Arts, the company founded by Hull two years ago, and is presented at the Cockpit as part of a season reviving shows that came and went before many learnt how good they were.

Sirett's play surfaced briefly at the New End last summer before going to Edinburgh, but is now at the Cockpit until mid-January. It will be enjoyed by all who danced through those years, or wished they had done. Not only is the dialogue piquant and spiky, but the story is a reminder that the history of ska and the post-punk period of early Thatcherism was a time when racism again became vicious.

The character of Martin is cursorily drawn and evolves jerkily, even allowing for the passage of time between scenes and the transformation wrought by his love affair with Eddie. But the other three are well-realised individuals, variously troubled, although not yet by unemployment, and unpolitical except at the street level of enjoying or opposing intolerance and riot.



Tara Hull and Clint Dyer meet to the beat of Skaville

Hull's Jane grows from a nervous girl, flung into a delighted daze by Eddie's rude boy talk, to become a young woman slapping out at mindless stupidity. Dyer's alert, attractive Eddie can be comical and passionate, and he does a great take-off of Shirley Bassey.

In Adrian Middleton's smartly paced direction the

scene-changing dances catch the energy of the concerts they eagerly rush off to, and the background walls of Wendy Parry's set allow new posters and record sleeves to mark the passing months. We even have a succession of chalked-up Top 20 boards: there's devotion from stage management.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Boring hack work

The Pat Hobby Stories Riverside Studios

The short stories starring the fictional Hollywood hack-turned-has-been, Pat Hobby, are not F. Scott Fitzgerald at his best. Though Fitzgerald knew that LA scene first-hand, his descriptive prose fails to dazzle. Paul Birchard's one-man show half-narrates, half-enacts only five of Hobby's sorry attempts to get back in with the studios' big shots. But frankly, five is a handful too many.

For one thing, Hobby's adventures are repetitive. Time and again, with vaguely comic hopelessness, he struggles to hit on bright ideas, habitually working the war into patently unrelated scripts. He regularly swigs liquor and doesn't get the dames. We see him inched out by hot young talent twice in a row.

But more tiresomely, the stories keep dumping you in a blind alley, having led you up avenues of anticipation. Our anti-hero, with a snowballing aversion to Orson Welles, whom he's never seen but everybody's talking about, intriguingly turns into a Welles look-alike. Hobby is just beginning to be mistaken for the great man when the narrative stops dead.

The fault does not really lie with Birchard's performance, although he looks too strapping in his double-breasted suit to embody his shabby main persona. He plays numerous parts adeptly, flicking from Hobby's wannabe Sam Spade savvy to a cute-talking broad. He conveys character,

simply, with a jutting jaw or a seductive finger. However, he's not on a par with Bob Kingdom or Kerry Shale, the masters of succinct caricature and infinite accents.

Michele Wearing's direction should have sharpened the comic timing and structural phrasing, and eliminated the anachronistic photocopies and furniture from among the antique telephones and vintage Time magazines. Or better still, she might have burned the set altogether.

KATE BASSETT



Paul Birchard: has-been in Fitzgerald's Hollywood

secular moralism, which presumably includes humanism.

Therefore Rea must either recommend that this situation be formalised, or take the line of "this far and no further". Whichever way he goes, the BBC faces a massive rumpus from minority interest groups or a massive rebellion from the mainstream "Thought for the Day" audience, which is already uneasy about the BBC view that religion and Christianity are not synonymous.

To return to Newman's cartoon, if all belief is faith, and all faith warrants five minutes on the radio, what price Satanism's "Thought for the Day"? There indeed is something to occupy us over Christmas.

PETER BARNARD

RADIO: How broad a church should 'Thought for the Day' represent?

It could get crowded in the pulpit

The reason for Rea's Christmas contemplation is that next month he has to deliver a report on ways that access to "Thought for the Day", which can attract more than five million listeners in its 7.50am slot in the Today programme, could or should be broadened.

Already, to the dismay of purists, we get the thoughts of Muslims, Jews and Sikhs. But these are faiths, even if they are not inherently Western (any more than Christianity is inherently Western). The questions Rea has to answer concern whether humanism, and

by extension agnosticism and atheism, are faiths?

There is a sizeable army of radio listeners to whom these questions matter a great deal. Most of them may not attend church, but they may well regard themselves as Christians — and this as a Christian country.

They are concerned that the BBC, as the national broadcasting institution, should not drift further into the dafter realms of political correctness by bowing to every passing theory in search of five minutes on the air.

"Thought for the Day" has enormous symbolic importance, because of its place in the schedules, and I believe it is right to allow non-Christian speakers access to it, although I am not impressed by the oft-quoted statistic about more people attending a mosque in Britain every week than visiting an Anglican church — what about Catholics, Methodists, et al?

Perhaps part of the problem at the BBC lies in the way that its departmental structure can sometimes reveal its attitudes. The biggest success produced

by the religious department in Manchester is *The Moral Maze*, which could arguably be an outgrowth of current affairs for all that it has to do with religion per se.

Yet it can also be argued that most of the moral boundaries delineated by *The Moral Maze* are roughly based on Christian ethics, which is to say Christianity without the mumbo-jumbo. So there is already an assumption built into the BBC's structure that religion goes beyond Christianity and even beyond other religions into the realms of

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Tracts for their time, but also for ours

Geoffrey Rowell on a study of the Oxford Tractarians, who transformed Anglicanism but fell out over Rome

The powerful and persuasive prose of John Henry Newman's *Apologia* gave a shape to the history of the Oxford Movement which has almost inevitably imprinted itself on subsequent accounts. Dean Church's classic study of the Movement is marked by his Anglican sense of the tragedy of Newman, who abandoned the movement he had led. Anglo-Catholic historiography too easily contrasted the vigour of the Oxford Tractarians with the torpor of what had gone before.

That revolution by tradition, which so profoundly transformed the Church of England and flowed out into the new Anglican churches overseas, was the more telling if the contrasts were sharp. The old High Churchmen, whom "apostolical" Oxford men labelled as the "Zs", were portrayed as too cautious and lacking the fire of the Spirit, unable or unwilling to "make a row in the world". It was Newman who arrived back in England in 1833, quoting the words of Achilles: "They shall know the difference now that I am back again."

Peter Nockles's important book redresses the balance and allows the contributions of the old High Churchmen proper weight. The doctoral thesis out of which this book has grown has already had a significant impact on Oxford Movement studies; it is good to have such an important revisionist assessment by a Roman Catholic scholar more readily available.

The fruit of long and painstaking research, Nockles's work draws on an extensive range of primary sources, enabling him to show that there was considerable life, and even reforming zeal, among High Churchmen such as the influential Hackney Phalanx, who were confidantes of Archbishop Manners-Sutton, and continued to be close to his successor, William Howley. They found themselves in the familiar position of not wishing to repudiate either the overall stance or the energies of the enthusiasts, yet wanting to distance themselves from some of their statements. As William Palmer of Worcester College, one of their most distinguished representatives, wrote: "The world mixes us and our principles entirely with the ultra men."

The Oxford Movement transformed the Church of England because at its heart there was a powerful religious impulse. One of the words most beloved of the Tractarians was *ethos*. They sought to change the culture of a complacent establishment by awakening a sense of the catholic continuity and identity of the Anglican Church, and by insisting on the centrality of the Christian call to holiness.

Yet the catalyst of the movement was the political and constitutional change of the 1830s and 1840s, which modified the Anglican con-

THE OXFORD MOVEMENT IN CONTEXT
Anglican High Churchmanship, 1760-1857

By Peter Nockles
Cambridge University Press, £40

cessional state and, by so doing, posed sharp questions of Anglican identity. One of the consequences of the Tractarian response to that challenge was that "Anglican" became an "ism", coined by Newman in 1837. Likewise "Anglo-Catholic", originally a 17th-century term indicating membership of the Church of England, came to be used to indicate the heirs of the Tractarians rather than old High Churchmen.

Nockles recognises that the Oxford Movement cannot be properly set in context without careful attention to the politics of Anglican High Churchmanship. Orthodox



John Henry Newman: tragic

churchmen were sharply critical of the theories of government originating from John Locke. For them the English constitution had a divine sanction and a theological rationale. They upheld a strong sacred theory of monarchy.

Similarly, Newman criticised Peel's legislation for reflecting utilitarianism; the Benthamites "cheerful, hopeful view of human nature", combined with an unbounded trust in improvement through education, did not take the sinfulness of a fallen world seriously. In the *Tamworth Reading Room Letters*, Newman attacked the bland, liberal religion of useful knowledge; in *The Idea of a University*, he condemned the folly of attempting to curb the pride and passion of man by mere learning as equivalent to trying to cut granite rocks with thread of silk.

The Oxford Movement called up the past to redress present ills. The

Tractarian leaders wished to recall the Church of England to a sense of Catholic continuity, yet, as the Evangelical William Goodell ironically observed, there was often an ambiguity in their Catholic reference. "What a useful weapon that word 'Catholic' is!...with three syllables it settles everything...it is a magic word that turns everything it touches into gold."

There was an appeal to antiquity, to the Church of the Fathers — and that, too, was deeply embedded in Anglican apologetic. Later there was a concern to find some measure of rapprochement with contemporary Roman Catholic doctrine. Newman's theory of development enabled him to account for discrepancies in the Fathers and the later elaborations of Roman doctrine at the Council of Trent.

The old High Churchmen believed the Church of England to be Catholic, though they did not repudiate the label Protestant. But their understanding of the catholicity of the Church of England was too closely tied to the context of the confessional state to enable them to confront the challenge to Anglican identity posed by the new denominational pluralism ushered in by Catholic Emancipation and the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. The Tractarians, and pre-eminently Newman, fought a strong battle, though in doing so they often neglected the strength of the older High Churchmen. In asserting the Catholic identity of the Church of England they came into conflict with both liberals and Evangelicals. If in the end they won, it was not by converting all Anglicans to their viewpoint but by extending the range of tolerated opinion. If part of the Oxford Movement's success was a transformation of Anglican worship, another part of it was, ironically, making the Church of England a broader church.

At the present time, Anglican Catholics are in disarray following a "Protestant" decision to decide unilaterally that women can be admitted to the priesthood. That disarray is because of the subversion of their ecclesiology. To be offered "an honoured place" within the Church of England may seem a generous gesture, but it is not the equivalent of the catholic identity claimed by the Oxford Movement fathers and their successors. Yet, as Nockles concludes, "the Movement's breadth of spiritual influence overrode its increasing tendency towards a churchly sectarianism". At the present crossroads for Catholic Anglicans, it is instructive to look again at both the tensions and the achievement of the Oxford Movement. For such a task, Nockles is an indispensable guide.

Dr Geoffrey Rowell is the Anglican Bishop of Basingstoke.



Night: this close-up by Aurelio Amendola shows how Michelangelo achieved a chromatic range by varying surface textures

Great smooth marbly limbs restored

Bruce Boucher

MICHELANGELO

The Medici Chapel

By James Beck, Antonio

Paolucci and Bruno Santi

Thames & Hudson, £36

MICHELANGELO's name is so indelibly linked to the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel that it is heartening to see a book dealing with another aspect of his genius: the Medici Chapel of San Lorenzo in Florence. Less celebrated than its Roman counterpart, the Medici Chapel is equally important. It is one of the few projects Michelangelo brought to relative completion and contains one-fifth of his surviving statuary. The sculptures have recently been the subject of a painstaking cleaning and their striking appearance is now celebrated in print.

Conceived as a memorial for the last direct descendants of Cosimo the Elder, the chapel was planned in the 1530s as a pendant to Brunelleschi's earlier Medici chapel, the Old Sacristy at San Lorenzo. For Michelangelo, the appeal of the commission lay in competition with Brunelleschi as well as in realising what the 15th-

century architect had not been able to achieve. This was a "total work of art", in which sculpture and architecture would coalesce as a single entity, without interference from other artists.

Michelangelo achieved this by reducing the architecture to a stark, white and grey backdrop for two tombs that occupy opposite sides of the chapel. The tombs themselves were turned into allegories of active and contemplative life, with Giuliano and his accompanying figures of Night and Day representing the former and Lorenzo with Dawn

and Dusk embodying the latter. The lighting was manipulated so that Giuliano's tomb looks constantly bright while Lorenzo's is shrouded in perpetual twilight. The individual monuments and the Medici princes were thus subsumed into a general statement on the human condition.

No one could appreciate how much these famous statues had been dulled by dirt and wax until cleaning began in 1988. Fortunately the restorers eschewed a high-tech treatment in favour of small quantities of distilled water and turpentine gradually applied to the sculptures over several years. Work was also carried out with natural light in order to simulate the conditions under which Michelangelo worked.

The restorers describe their intention as striking a balance between removing those elements contributing to the deterioration of the sculpture without disturb-

ing its natural ageing process. Above all, their avoidance of chemical or abrasive cleaning has saved Michelangelo's sculpture from being turned into a shiny but lifeless copy of itself.

Their success is amply demonstrated here in Aurelio Amendola's handsome black and white photographs which show how the sculptor achieved a chromatic range through varying surface textures as well as by exploiting light and shade. Amendola's photographs give us an extremely valuable account of the sculptures and of the Medici Chapel's inventive architecture, which has more in common with Brunelleschi's creative reworking of antique motifs than with the academic classicism of Michelangelo's handiwork in San Lorenzo. But it is Agnese Parronchi and Francesco Panichi, the scrupulous and long-suffering restorers, who remain the heroes of *The Medici Chapel*.

Faith roaring, not withdrawing

COLM Toibin's travels in Catholic Europe are primarily personal ones. He has his reasons for investigating Roman Catholicism — his own upbringing in Ireland, his father's death — but he doesn't dwell on them. Instead, he sets out to discover what other people think.

Toibin interviews academics, writers and politicians and asks why religion still forms a central part of people's lives in some parts of Europe but not in others. How does it connect with the societies people live in? He listens patiently, rarely interjecting his own views, or anemone generalisations. Instead he observes, elegantly storing up other people's ideas, and quietly trying to absorb their certainties into his confusion, their faith into his agnosticism.

In Vilnius, a Lithuanian newspaper editor named Algis Chekulis remarks mournfully that the connection between religion and politics is all too clear. Under Soviet occupation, Catholicism provided an essential means of resisting the regime; and now that the Lithuanians are free to worship, very few do so. In Slovakia, the first open demonstration against the Communist regime was organised by the Catholic Church.

A Bavarian theologian calls himself a Catholic while doubting the existence of Hell, transubstantiation and the divinity of Jesus. English Catholics acquire the faith in the face of a nation which forbids its monarch to marry a Catholic and holds an annual fireworks party to celebrate the suppression of a Catholic rebellion.

Toibin is sceptical about the extreme manifestations of Catholicism, and rightly so. Medjugorje in Croatia, formerly consisting of three buildings, is now a cosmopolitan hub with BMW taxis and smart hotels, thanks to the apparition of the Virgin Mary to four



Ireland, 1962: one of the American photographer Elliott Erwitt's witty vignettes from his collection *Between the Sexes* (Norton, £25). Erwitt, a member of Magnum, the photographers' co-operative, includes pictures taken from 1949 to 1993; Erwitt is a candid camera, but his taste is reliable

Albert Read

THE SIGN OF

THE CROSS

Travels in Catholic Europe

By Colm Toibin

Jonathan Cape, £16.99

teenagers. Toibin sees one of these teenage visionaries: she is smooth and suspicious, well dressed and sun tanned.

In Catholic countries religion is as much about the community as it is about the after-life. Palm Sunday in Seville is certainly a big social event, but even Toibin at his most sceptical cannot fail to register the

looks on people's faces as the stunner of the Virgin Mary passes: "People stared... as though they had never seen anything like it in their lives, as though one of the wonders of the world had just passed in front of them."

In a small town in Italy, a hundred women stand barefoot, guarding another of the Virgin Mary's effigies through a whole cold night. From a monastery wall, Toibin watches a group of a million young people who have come to see the Pope in Krakow, as they link hands and "sway back and forth like waves... to a beautiful tune."

Toibin writes beautifully: his style is dispassionate and honest. He strikes a careful balance be-

tween reportage and self-scrutiny. As a travel writer, he opens our eyes to Eastern Europe (Ljubljana in Slovenia is "part of an illustration or a dream rather than a real city", while Vilnius is "the dullest city I have ever been to").

As a Catholic writer, however, he is more reluctant to come to conclusions. He ends his travels in the crowds of St Peter's Square in Rome for the Pope's Easter blessing. He is expecting something different, to be transported onto a grand plain of religious experience. Instead, all he finds are the same simple tunes that he learnt in Ireland and — on a note of curious optimism — the same Catholic Church of his childhood.

Julian of Norwich was the first woman to write in English and the first known to have written a book. She lived in the last quarter of the 14th century, alone in a basement cell attached to a church in Norwich. In 1373, when she was seriously ill and apparently at the point of death, she had a series of visions or "showings", mostly of Christ on the Cross, which she went on to write about twice: a shorter text written soon after the experience and a much longer, more theological one written about 20 years later.

In this, the first major assessment of her significance as a visionary and theologian, Denise Nowakowski Baker places Julian in her 14th-century context, arguing that the pattern and visual details of the showings owe much to contemporary devotional traditions. But she also points out that, as a theologian, Julian was astoundingly original, and often goes beyond pre-existing views, whether orthodox or heretical.

In her explanation of evil, for example, Julian argues that "sin is behovely" and part of God's scheme: through the repentance following sin, we receive a grace which brings greater knowledge of ourselves and of God than we had before. Controversially, Julian denied that original sin meant that we are attracted to evil. She emphasised the growth of goodness in humankind and God's plan of salvation, insisting that "all shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

This is a warm and optimistic view of things and what emerges from this book is not only how original Julian was, but how nice. She is always full of compassion, the tone in which she describes poor sinning, suffering humankind is maternal. This is probably one reason why she is so attractive to 20th-century feminist Christians: another is her amplification of the earlier idea of Jesus as Mother.

Julian was sensitive to prejudice against her as a female religious thinker. She excuses herself from

Visions of Jesus as our mother

Julian Gibbs

JULIAN OF NORWICH'S

SHOWINGS

From Vision to Book

By Denise Nowakowski

Baker

Princeton University Press, £24.95

the Church's prohibition against female teachers, claiming "as a woman, ignorant, weak and frail" to speak only as God's messenger. However, in her longer book she makes no apology. Baker does not mention this, but perhaps it is evidence of Julian's growing belief in herself as a religious writer.

Another aspect of Julian's theology which is attractive to the 20th century is her refusal to attribute vengeance to God. She seems almost to have believed that we create Hell ourselves through the misery and isolation from God that sinning causes us. She does acknowledge the Church's teaching that unrepentant sinners will be eternally damned, but she also claims to have received Christ's "confidential advice" that on the last day God will save all the condemned in Hell and that what may seem impossible for her is possible for Him.

After struggling through Baker's book I was glad I had made myself do so. Baker guides her reader almost too conscientiously through the intricacies of medieval devotional culture and

theology; every point is made very thoroughly. In the last chapter she pays tribute to Julian's powers of composition, especially in the longer text. She does not, however, comment on the strength and liveliness of Julian's language to which her own dry prose is in sad contrast. Nevertheless, the rigour of this historical assessment is impressive.

Early in her book, Baker remarks that Julian probably called herself after the Church of St Julian, where she was an anchoress. Julian was a female name in the past — I know this because I am called Julian after the heroine of an apparently well-researched historical novel set in the 16th century. People often assume that I am called after Julian of Norwich. Now I'll have to explain, not only that I'm not, but that she wasn't called Julian either. We don't really know the original name of the first woman to write in English; only — as she would probably have wished — the name she gave herself, as a Christian devoted to the contemplation of God.

Julian Gibbs is a medievalist and a schoolteacher.

WEEKEND BOOKS

Gerald Kaufman on Abel Gance and his *Napoleon*; Giles Coren on last-minute literary gifts; *Palgrave's Treasury* revisited; Richard Morrison plays the last post for military bands; plus Daniel Johnson's column

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What is the city but the people?

Stella Tillyard
on a polymath's
account of how
cities mirrored
bodily geometry

Starting in the Athens of Pericles and ending in New York's Greenwich Village today, Richard Sennett's new book offers a tour of Western cities that seeks to ask two related questions: how did attitudes toward the body affect urban architecture and space? And how did the experience of these spaces change attitudes towards the body?

Athenians, Sennett says, believed that human bodies were hierarchically ordered from female to male, cold to hot, bottom to top, and consequently they developed a cult of the muscular male body, brought to warm perfection by mental and physical exercise. In the gymnasium and other civic spaces, especially the agora and the temple, young men were trained in citizenship, a state expressed in moral and physical uprightness, in debate and in love between men. Conversely, women and slaves, the bulk of the Athenian population, were denied entry to the urban spaces and rituals in which citizenship was enacted. For them, the architecture of the city was always alien, sometimes a threat. Though he does not explicitly define it, this is Sennett's counter-theme, running throughout the book.

The Romans substituted bodily geometry for bodily heat. Following Vitruvius, bodily geometry could be translated into architecture and urban plans which reflected a well-ordered empire. Starting from the "umbilicus", the city centre, the Romans built outwards in a grid corresponding to the geometry of the body. Wherever they went, they built according to the same plan, believing that their cities could create new imperial citizens.



Urban utopia: the sculptor Raymond Mason's *St Mark's Place*, East Village, New York, 1972, from *Raymond Mason* by Michael Edwards (Thames & Hudson, £30)

Outside this order, cultivating new ideas about the body, were the early Christians, who emphasised the body's pain, expressed in the Passion. The city's spaces became sites of compassion: by 1328, Paris had 60 church-run hospitals as well as numerous almshouses. It also had a thriving economy, the principles of which were at odds with Christian values of charity, poverty and otherworldliness. The resulting tension between the needs of commerce and the desire for Christian piety reached its apotheosis in 16th-century Venice.

Venice depended for its prosperity on non-Italians. Nowhere else in Europe was citizenship defined

against so many degrees of difference and nowhere was the attempt at segregating citizens and non-citizens so extreme. As Venice declined, fear of foreigners grew, and with it walls surrounding those whose bodies and beliefs might corrupt Christian spaces. Dalmatians, Turks, Persians, Greeks and Armenians lived in rigidly-defined and policed spaces.

Germans had to live in the Fondaco Tedesco. But it was with the Jews, whose bodies were regarded as corrupting to Christian piety, that confinement was made absolute, in the Ghetto Nuovo of 1516. The Ghetto was an island, surrounded by canals and sealed

FLESH AND STONE
The Body and the City in
Western Civilisation
By Richard Sennett
Faber, £25

off at night: within its cramped spaces, Sennett says, a new Jewish identity was forged, entangled with this repressive geography.

In the 17th century the master image of the body changed: circulation replaced body heat. Bodies needed clean air around them, public health became a new priority. In the centuries after Harvey's

discovery of the circulation of the blood, the city came to be seen and planned as a place of movement, an organic body with veins, arteries, a heart and lungs. Wide streets, railways and expressways encouraged the citizen to move about.

But this new freedom was inevitably compromised. The open spaces in which Parisians were supposed to express their liberty during the Revolution were also sites of execution. Haussmann's great boulevards divided and ruled over Paris's poor. The London Underground separated class from class. As cities became ever more diverse, citizens in trains and automobiles became more alienated.

Only urban pockets like Greenwich Village, Sennett concludes, offer hope that modern cities can be places where bodily diversity and physical pain are accepted, as they must be, he says, if humanity is to have any compensation for its exile from the Garden of Eden.

This is Sennett's argument, laboriously distilled from the book's 400 pages; but it is not the book that he wrote. *Flesh and Stone* is chaotically de-centred, its highways crossed and recrossed by digressive byways. The section on pagan Rome ends with notes on Byron's mis-translation of a poem by Hadrian, that on Christian Rome with a discussion of a fable by Nietzsche.

BACKLIST

Other works by
Richard Sennett

**THE CONSCIENCE
OF THE EYE**
1991, Faber, £9.99 pbk

AUTHORITY
1980, Faber, £9.99 pbk

**THE FALL OF
PUBLIC MAN**
1977, Faber, £9.99 pbk

**THE HIDDEN INJURIES
OF CLASS**
1972, Faber, £9.99 pbk

THE USES OF DISORDER
1971, Faber, forthcoming

The chapter on Edwardian London treats us to pages on the development of upholstery and the manufacture of chairs.

There may be a point to this rambling. At the beginning of the book, Sennett invokes Foucault, both the vigorous master inveighing against "power in society" and the dying sage who late in life accepted bodily pleasure and diversity. *Flesh and Stone* echoes this invocation. It resists any kind of totalising structure and invites us to celebrate its architecture of diversity, inclusivity and tolerance: a Greenwich Village of a book, then, in which anything goes.

This anti-authoritarian attempt fails for two reasons. First, the book's incoherence will baffle many readers, who may think themselves inadequate to its intellectual sweep. Second, as an object it is redolent of authority: it is beautifully produced and comes with the imprimatur of a famous publishing house. Sennett may think he has constructed in prose his architecture of equality, but his digressions form a labyrinth in which his readers are lost. If he is really egalitarian he should state his argument clearly and allow us, his fellow citizens in the republic of letters, to decide whether we agree. Because he doesn't, his tour of Western cities turns out to be nothing more than a power trip.

UNDER THE FROG, Tibor Fischer's wonderful first novel, dealt with a group of young men — a works basketball team — in Hungary between 1945 and 1956. It was a spirited and uncommonly authentic account of a time the author hadn't directly experienced (Fischer's parents fled to England after the uprising, he was born in 1959). The humour, an original blend of continental black political humour with English flippancy, gained its nobility and distinction by reflecting on actual and dreadful events, as witness the last sentence, quoted from memory: "Tears, in teams, absconded with his face." It was a youthful and irrepressible performance.

By contrast, Fischer's second novel, *The Thought Gang*, is utterly English and as frankly escapist as, say, P.G. Wodehouse. (His two bank robber heroes evoke Pamph and Mike every bit as much as Robin Hood and

Heady-headed argot saga

Michael Hofmann
THE THOUGHT GANG
By Tibor Fischer
Polygon, £8.99 pbk original

Little John). Its humour is autonomous, ubiquitous and safe. It has the madcap gusto, the whiff of varsity — or even nursery — of much English funny writing. Where *Under the Frog* suggested a Czech film from the sixties, *The Thought Gang* wouldn't look out of place as a comedy series on British television.

Fischer takes as his narrator Eddie Coffin: a bald, feckless,

50-year-old Cambridge philosopher on the run from the police in France. His sidekick is a French gangster Hubert, one-time "perpetual" (lifer), three parts prosthesis to one of flesh, the original one-armed armed robber.

The pair of them rob, drink and philosophise their way round the Côte d'Azur, knocking over banks with an irresistible combination of force and logical persuasion. *The Thought Gang* is a highly stylised pastiche to sex and violence, France, alcoholic indulgence, the stupidity of policemen and cleverness, especially pointless cleverness.

The book is as ornate and quirky as a banknote. It has comic running titles and ornamental rows of question marks between sections. It has a regularly consummated love-affair with the Greek language, a thing about words beginning with "Z", a preoccupation with the millennium (one of Coffin's never-written works — unless it be this book, which in a sense it is — has the title *The Two Meets the Three Zeroes* — and in Greek 2000 was written as "Z"), a pally liaison with Western philosophy (referred to as "the biz"), and in particular the Ionians, whose thought, the canny Coffin would have us infer, would fit comfortably on one side of a potsherd. All this is delivered in a strenuous argot reminiscent of *Money* or *A Clockwork Orange* — that is, tirelessly inventive.

This is where the book really scores. I could happily fill pages with Fischerisms: dining in restaurants becomes "high class zoophagy", drinking "industrial transfusions of grape blood", flushing an unwilling toilet is "giving it the handle", a bank is a "dosh-house" and philosophers the "headly-headed". A hangover is: "The day had slipped a sample of its wares through the curtains on to the ceiling. I wasn't impressed." I don't think I have ever read a novel — certainly not a comic novel



Tibor Fischer: he is the biz

— that was written largely using the resources of lyric poetry: metaphor, personification, alliteration, repetition and the rest of them.

Coffin's personal style is confected out of all sorts of (normally) incompatible elements: abstruse learning, rhyming slang, turns of phrase derived from American or French, neologisms and just sheer display. In the end, the real hero of the book is language, which has rarely been handled with as much irreverence, fun and ingenuity as by Tibor Fischer. It is ironic that this wacky and amoral and freewheeling book should end up in praise of learning, and by preaching the joys of a large vocabulary.

Turning into a frightened child

Ernst Weiss and Michael Krüger bring a modernist flavour to the *Bildungsroman*, the novel of self-formation. Turning away from the prototypical example of the genre, Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister*, they reject not only traditional values and assumptions, but also the rhetoric by which these were communicated.

On the surface *The Aristocrat* and *Himmelfarb* seem very different. The former is set in the house of Oederkühle, an exclusive boarding school where the sons of the houses of pure blood... receive an education in accordance with their rank". Told with all the immediacy of the present tense, it is characterised by a rich extravagance of description and the irrepressible imagination and furious vitality of its hero, Boëtius von Orlamünde.

Himmelfarb, by contrast, is a retrospective account of an anthropologist's expedition into the Brazilian rainforest to document what he sees as "the bleak and repugnant traditions" of indigenous Indians. The narrator, "old and rich enough to be able to afford a comfortable pessimism", remains constantly on his guard lest the "firm shell of heartlessness begin to crumble".

Both novels, however, confront the search for identity. At

first their protagonists struggle to affirm a sense of self by asserting their dominance within a hierarchical system. For Boëtius this is embodied in etiquette, "all the refinements of aristocratic discourse", while in *Himmelfarb* it is represented by the cultural values of the German Reich which the narrator, Richard, tries to impose, not only upon the Brazilian Indians, but also upon the expatriate Jew who accompanies him into the jungle.

Each gradually learns that identity cannot be so easily defined. Boëtius fails the ultimate trial which might justify his rank, while Richard realises that the Jew on whose life he is parasitical has a vision and vitality which render his own achievements worthless.

Yet, though the world of each protagonist crumbles around him, no new or redemptive structure is offered in its place. Both Weiss (writing in 1928) and Krüger (writing in 1993) have seen the inhumanities of war and know the horrors that can result from the regimentation of men. "Now that everything has turned into flow, movement, trembling dissolution", says Richard in *Himmelfarb*, "now that the chaotic now unanchored memories plague me and undercut any order and hierarchy I'm turning into

a frightened child." *Himmelfarb* is a sort of *Bildungsroman* in reverse. "Thank God", he says, "that the Third World War, which everyone seems to have forgotten about, will take place only after my death".

Boëtius likewise finds no new answers. It is significant that almost exactly one year to the day from the denouement of the novel Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo. In just one year Boëtius would have been an officer in the German Army, his identity once more defined by his rank.

It seems disquietingly significant that Weiss himself committed suicide the day after Nazi troops entered Paris. The spectre of death overshadows these novels, an image of the alienation, loss and despair which is the inheritance of the 20th-century mind.

CORRECTION

Our review by Daniel Johnson of David Yallop's book *To the Ends of the Earth*, about Carlos the Jackal (February 25, 1993), could have been interpreted as suggesting that Mr Yallop had published names of some of his sources and thus jeopardised their safety. This would have been entirely inaccurate and we apologise to Mr Yallop if the review contained this unintended meaning. We also accept that Mr Yallop scrupulously maintains the confidentiality and anonymity of his sources when asked to do so.

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THE CIVILIZATION OF EUROPE IN THE RENAISSANCE

JOHN HALE

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Frederic Raphael, SUNDAY TIMES

"We are unlikely to get a more magisterial summary of the age than this."
Martin Gayford, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

"John Hale has produced a vast and enthralling mosaic... His curiosity never fails, his learning constantly surprises, and the wit and energy of his style never flags... What he has done is extraordinary."
Anthony Grafton, LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS

FontanaPress £14.99 P/B

In the wake of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, with the gradual normalisation of relationships between Israel and her Arab neighbours, with the deal with the PLO, *This Year in Jerusalem* has a certain promise as a title. But his publisher claims that Mordecai Richler "travels to Israel to look for his roots". Untrue. He no more travels to Israel to look for his roots than I would. His roots lie in Montreal, and in the East European shtetl before that, as mine lie in Britain, and in Germany before that.

Much more important is his search for what it means to live as an unobservant Jew in the diaspora as the scion of an illustrious rabbinical family. Richler was once moved by the Zionist dream as a teenager to join Habonim, the socialist Zionist youth movement which led for many of its members to "aliyah": emigration to Israel as the fulfilment of their dreams.

Richler joined Habonim for both good and bad reasons. He wanted to escape from the strict Orthodoxy of home, and particularly of his grandfather, with whom in later life he never spoke again. He wanted

Hebrew but not of the Hebrews

Julia Neuberger

THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM
By Mordecai Richler
Chanto & Windus, £16.99

the social life to be found there. He had met the inimitable Jerry Greenfield, the lad the girls loved, with his effortless gift for hockey, baseball and everything the wimpy and studious Richler could not manage well. Throughout this volume, Jerry, more and more dissolute, keeps pitching up. He never went to Israel: the leader of the Habonim pack turns out to be a loan, cheating on his friends. More significantly, of the four close friends from Habonim, who had assumed they would make aliyah together, none did.

Yet Richler goes on this later journey, looking up old



Richler: diaspora roots

Habonim friends and meeting cousins. He travels in luxury with his non-Jewish wife. He finds his friends have little money, having lived a hard life while he reached fame and fortune in North America. Richler examines the old socialism of Habonim, and remembers his joy at the British postwar Labour victory, with a Jew, Harold Laski, as a leading player. The realisation came later that many of his Labour heroes, such as the

Webbs and Hugh Dalton, were anti-Semitic. The idealist's illusions were not shattered at the time. And to some extent they are still not, for his liberal instincts are intact.

He ends with a polemic against Ruth Wisse, "one of Likud's most impassioned advocates", who believes that any Jew who criticises Israel is compromised by an unacknowledged need to win the approval of the gentiles. It is not a new argument. The Jews used to be described as craven by their non-Jewish critics. Now those Jews who object to some of the actions of the Jewish state are also described as craven — but this time by their fellow Jews. Richler has no sympathy for this, and ends, unsurprisingly, with a call for peace.

But he leaves us wondering about his own Jewish identity. Not an Israeli, no longer an ardent Zionist, not a practising Jew, living in Britain and Canada — what is he? Who is he? I know where he stands on Israel. But I still do not know where he stands on Judaism, and Jewish survival, for himself, his half-Jewish children, and this modern age. The promise to tell is unfulfilled.

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Fighting to save duty-free shopping

The British spend £1.3 billion a year in duty-free shops — yet this booming business could close down before the end of the century. Tony Dawe reports

Duty-free shopping has become an essential part of Christmas for hundreds of thousands of Britons. It launches most foreign holidays, but has become more than just a bit of fun.

It is big business, worth £10 billion a year around the world, at least £5 billion in Europe and £1.3 billion in Britain alone. Duty-free earns BAA, Britain's leading airport operator, almost as much as landing fees; it provides a third of the total revenue of the cross-Channel ferry companies and makes the difference between profit and loss for many charter airlines.

Companies such as Alders, Forte and Aer Rianta in Ireland have boomed by running duty-free shops in leading airports. Famous retailers including Harrods, Mappin & Webb and Berry Bros & Rudd have moved into Heathrow airport's departure lounges to offer passengers quality goods free of duty or VAT, or both. The Scotch whisky industry would be lost without it.

Yet although business is booming and bargain-seeking shoppers cross the Channel in their thousands every week, Europe's duty-free industry is under threat. The European Commission regards it as an anachronism in a free trade community and wanted to end it within Europe when the single market was created last year. A fierce campaign by retailers, airport authorities and travel companies won a reprieve until June 30, 1999.

Duty-free shopping could end earlier, however, if Eurotunnel has its way. The Channel Tunnel company has started legal proceedings to outlaw the business, arguing that its competitors are enjoying an unfair and discriminatory advantage under European free trade laws because they can subsidise fares from the profits on duty-free sales.

The Eurostar trains running through the tunnel from London to Paris and Brussels are not allowed to sell duty-free goods and it is also impractical to sell them on Le Shuttle's short service from Folkestone to Calais, although passen-

gers can make a detour to duty-free shops at the two terminals.

Eurotunnel's case is being resisted by the airlines, ferry companies and retailers, and after a High Court ruling in the new year the case is expected to move into the European courts. The duty-free industry is also preparing itself for a longer fight to persuade the European Union to allow the reprieve to continue beyond 1999, for, without sales to people travelling within Europe, its pickings would be very thin.

"The date concentrates the mind," Frank O'Connell, head of the International Duty Free Confederation and an Aer Rianta executive, says. "At this stage we are just putting the pieces in place. But as we go along, our research will be incorporated into a lobbying campaign."

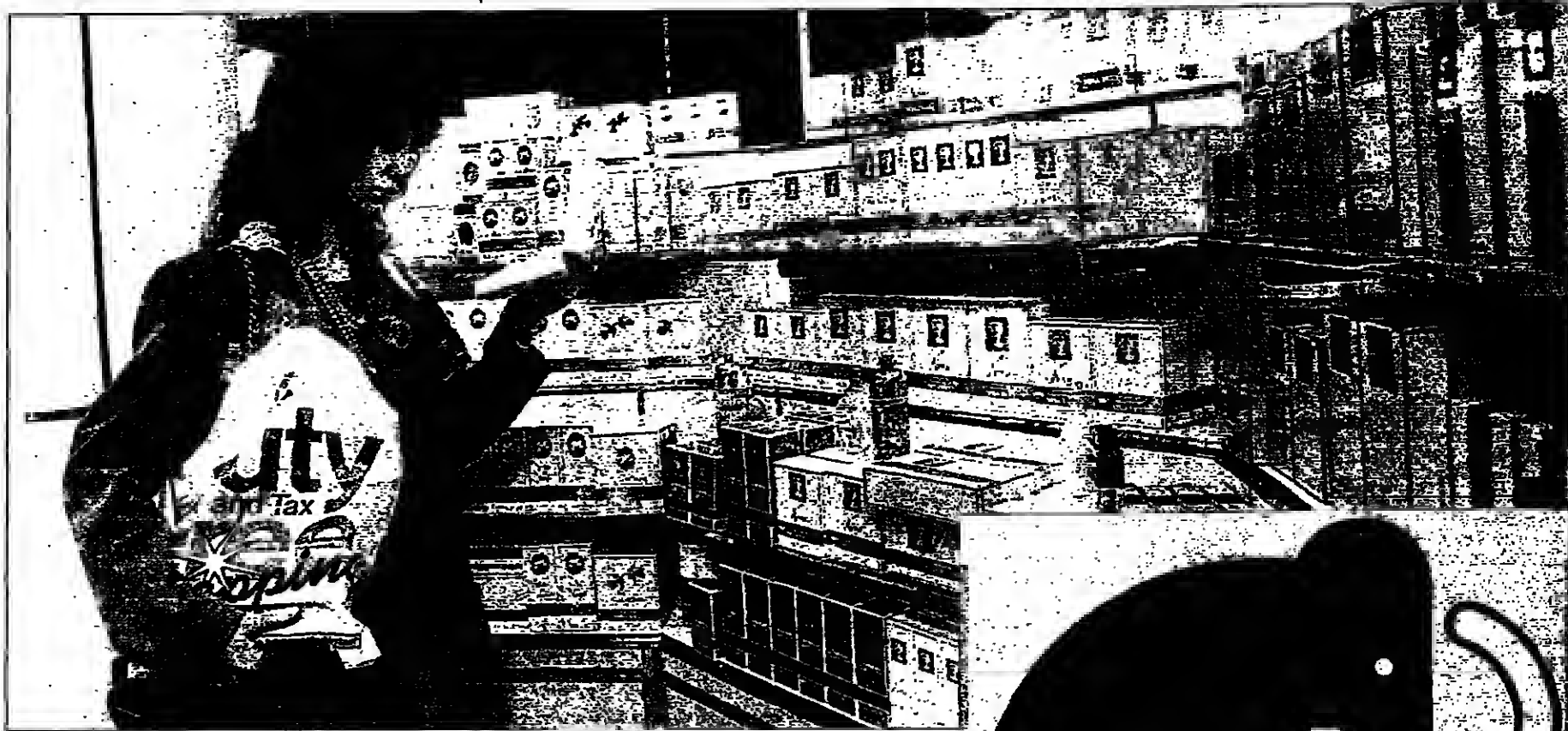
"Why do away with something which works?" Barry Goddard, secretary-general of Britain's Duty Free Confederation, asks. "It is tightly controlled and does not contradict the definition of the European single market. We still have 12 fiscal authorities imposing their own duties and taxes."

"We shall be fighting long and hard on these points and on the crucial factor that it is an industry

Europe's duty-free industry is under threat. It should end on June 30, 1999

which benefits a large number of people, travellers and businesses alike."

He argues that the industry provides good bargains which help to keep travel costs down. "People love buying duty-free; it is a fun thing which adds to the enjoyment of travel," he says. "There is some criticism that prices are too high, but while the operators are making profits they are also sharing the



Duty-free shopping for perfume: the British have always been quick to seek out bargain prices

benefits with customers. You wouldn't get 30 million people a year buying duty-free if they were a rip-off."

He also counters Eurotunnel's claim that the duty-free trade represents a total loss to the British Exchequer of £600 million a year in excise duty and VAT. "That figure assumes that all duty and tax-free sales would be replaced by equivalent purchases in the UK market and that would never happen," he says. The Confederation estimates the loss at £100 million, less than the Chancellor is now losing on beer, wines and cigarettes, bought in bulk at cheaper prices in continental shops by Britons for consumption at home.

Mr Goddard admits, however, that the campaign would be difficult to win if the EU moved towards fiscal unity, including a single currency. He gives warning of the dire consequences of ending the industry. "If duty-free goes, then fares will rise and fewer people are likely to travel, leading inevitably to fewer jobs in the travel industry and ancillary services."

Airlines also admit that they — and their passengers — would be hit hard. "The abolition of duty-free would not be good news for

holidaymakers," Stuart Brooks, of Britannia Airways, says. "Lost revenue at UK and overseas airports would need to be recovered somehow, and increased airport charges for airlines would be one likely source."

"Charter airlines would need to increase their seat rates to tour

BAA and the ferry companies are expanding other outlets to offset any loss of profits

operators, making the holiday more expensive and as a result the travel agent's commission would increase. The cost of a package holiday could rise by up to £13 a passenger, which for a family of four would be very considerable. Britannia is exploring other sources of income but as yet none is likely to make up for lost revenue."

BAA and the ferry companies have embarked, however, on a

policy of expanding other retail outlets to offset any possible loss of duty-free profits. BAA says that an important element of its strategy is significantly to increase retail space at its airports.

Recent developments have included an expansion of Gatwick's landside shopping and catering facilities and the creation of an airside shopping mall in Terminal 3.

Aberdeen airport's terminal has been refurbished with a new bookstore, cafe and four larger retail units as well as a new duty-free shop. These projects follow on from the success of the airside shopping facilities created in Heathrow's Terminal 4 where Aquascutum, Austin Reed, Bally, Hamleys, Jaeger and The Scotch House all have tax-free shops.

Ian Todd, of P&O European Ferries, says: "We are working at expanding our on-board shopping base to include more tax-free shops and catering facilities. While sailing in international waters, we can sell a wide range of goods without charging VAT, including cosmetics, jewellery, CDs, stereo, and confectionery. We are shifting such huge amounts that we can get very good prices from suppliers."



The Mammouth hypermarket at Calais Ouest: shoppers' mecca

How much is enough?

PASSENGERS travelling by air and sea to and from countries within the European Union are allowed to buy these quantities of duty and tax-free items:

- 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco.
- two litres of still table wine.
- 1 litre of spirits or strong liqueurs over 22 per cent volume or 2 litres of fortified wine, sparkling wine or other liqueurs.
- 60cc/ml of perfume.
- 250cc/ml of toilet water.
- £71 (90 Ecu) worth of all other goods including gifts and souvenirs.

(People under 17 cannot have the tobacco or alcohol allowances.)

YOUR ALLOWANCES

Under EU law, duty and tax-free shops cannot sell you more than these quantities each time you travel to or from another EU country. You can buy them on each journey you make and bring them back to the UK as long as they are for your personal use.

If you buy tobacco, alcohol, perfume and gifts from ordinary shops in the EU, you don't have to pay further duty or tax provided they are for your use. EU law sets out guidance levels, and if you bring in more you must be able to prove, if asked by Customs, that it is for your own use — or risk seizure of the items. These are the guidance levels:

- 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos, 200 cigars.
 - 1kg smoking tobacco.
 - 10 litres spirits.
 - 20 litres fortified wine.
 - 90 litres (10 cases) of wine, not more than 60 litres of it sparkling wine.
 - 110 litres (about 60 4-packs) of beer.
- The tobacco, alcohol and perfume allowances are exactly the same for travellers returning to the UK from countries outside the EU, except that you can buy them only once, either on the outward or return journey. You are allowed to bring in £136-worth of other goods — if you bring in more, you will be charged duty on the full value.

Robin Young on the savings to be had on day trips to the Continent

Great Christmas goodies from sorties abroad

When Christmas comes, people do not want to pay duty on it. Duty-free shopping, big business year round, assumes jumbo proportions. Santa's sleigh slides past the customs officers more heavily laden with duty-free baccy, grog and gifts every year.

When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping. It is the ready availability of myriad bargains free of excise duty and VAT that helps to make a tough life tolerable for frequent-flyers and business travellers whose jobs condemn them to a state of almost perpetual motion.

And for the rest of us, the most effective mid-winter travel incentive of all is the subsidy the Government offers in the shape of cut-price goodies to be brought home from sorties abroad.

The ferry companies estimate that well over two million people will be taking day trips to the Continent this month solely to benefit from the savings to be had on duty-free goods and personal imports of wines, beers, spirits and tobacco. P&O European Ferries estimates that traffic and takings will be at least a fifth up this year on last.

Chris Laming, of Stena Sealink, says: "We are doing everything we can to promote the traffic." He points out that passengers who buy their duty-free allowances on both outward and inward crossings can save £289 each simply by buying 12 24-can cases for the price of ten of Foster's Export Lager. The cost is £109.90, compared with a high street price of almost £400.

Adding two litres of Glenfiddich malt whisky at £9.99 each and 400 Benson & Hedges King Size cigarettes at



£19.98 brings the individual traveller's saving on a typical "basket" of duty-free goods to more than £350.

P&O European Ferries' Christmas promotions include an extra saving of £5 on 200 Benson & Hedges for everyone on the Dover-Calais route buying a litre of selected malt whisky, while on sailings from Portsmouth those spending £25 or more receive a £5 voucher to spend on spirits, cigarettes, wines or confectionery. The savings quickly reimburse the winter daytrip return fares, which start from £5 for a foot passenger or £20 for a car and up to four occupants.

There are similar Christmas bonuses offered by all the other ferry companies such as Hoverspeed, Britany Ferries and Sally, and the duty-free allowances also apply, of

course, on routes to Ireland as well as other continental countries.

While the ferries undergo their seasonal transformation, business is also booming in the shopping malls at airport terminals. Heathrow already sells a bottle of whisky every 18 seconds throughout the year, while Gatwick shifts 5.6 million measures of Gordon's gin and enough Silk Cut cigarettes to stretch the distance of the Channel Tunnel and back.

Yet at the airports it is emphatically not all booze and baccy. BAA airports account for nearly a tenth of the total UK perfume market, the Mappin & Webb shop at Heathrow's Terminal 4 is the UK's biggest selling outlet of Rolex watches, the Laura Ashley unit at Heathrow's Terminal 3 produces the highest sales per square foot of all the

company's shops, and Heathrow's Bally shoe stores fit 78,000 pairs of feet a year.

Caviar. House's airport shops sell 5,000kg of caviar, 9,500kg of smoked salmon and 13,000 tins of foie gras annually, with demand for all its delicacies peaking at Christmas.

By commissioning regular price surveys, BAA claims to ensure that savings of 50 per cent off the average UK high street price are guaranteed on 33 of the most popular liquor products sold in its airports' duty-free shops.

Not all the best bargains are necessarily to be found at the British end of the journey though. A recent survey by the French consumers' organisation UPC-Que Choisir compared prices for 150 popular duty-free items, and found that Milan, Athens and Madrid had the best deals in spirits. Madrid, Lisbon and Athens offered the cheapest cigarettes, while Dublin, Amsterdam and London were cheapest for CDs. Dublin, Athens and Milan sold the lowest-priced perfumes. London's duty-free shops were found to be the most expensive for both spirits and cigarettes.

And while tobacco products were on average two-thirds dearer in high street shops, spirits more than half as expensive and perfumes a quarter dearer, there were smaller savings in the duty-free shops than in town. The allowance for electronic equipment, cameras and such bought from duty-free sources within the EU is £71.

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هكذا من الأصل

The profits from the huge scale of goods bought help to keep down the price of holidays, Tony Dawe reports

Where more is much less

Who would imagine that 15,000 toy rabbits are sold on P&O's Dover-Calais ferry crossings every year? But it is true — and just one of the many bizarre statistics which the travel industry loves to produce to prove the popularity of duty and tax-free shopping.

P&O also claims to be the world's biggest seller of large Toblerone bars, while Britannia Airways' passengers bought 34 tonnes of the chocolate last year. The holiday airline also points out that if all the cigarettes purchased inflight last year were laid end to end they would stretch from London to Las Vegas. Passengers at London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports sucked their way through 500,000 packets of Polo mints last year.

These statistics are just a simple way of showing the importance to travel companies of duty and tax-free shopping. Ferry operators, airlines and airport authorities all freely admit that it can make the difference between profit and loss.

Gareth Cooper, Stena Sealink's managing director, says: "At this time of year, we sell rickets to travel on ships for a smaller price than the port dues. We have to make sure, therefore, that onboard sales more than cover the operating costs of the business."

"The ferry industry has changed dramatically over the past few years, not just because of the Channel Tunnel. We have increased capacity to meet demand in the peak season but that could leave us with low volumes in the winter. We have therefore created a new range of products, including short breaks, day trips and cruises, all at advantageous prices. A lot of the traffic is generated by the attractions of duty-free goods."

Alcohol and tobacco, followed by gifts and fragrances, are the main revenue-earners, but Mr Cooper is also keen to extend tax-free shopping and income from food and beverages. The company has brought in executives from supermarket chains and hotel

groups to advise on its retail activities, and has introduced a McDonald's on the new ferry *Fantasia* and Easy Diner and Globetrotter fast food outlets on other ships.

P&O European Ferries is following the same path, selling an increasing range of confectionery, soft toys and fashion items including clothing by Fruit of the Loom and menswear by Cabico. The company says that one third of its annual revenue of £600 million comes from onboard sales, including food and beverages, but principally duty-free goods.

The holiday airlines cannot match these revenue figures but the amount they do earn from duty-free is even more important to them. Last year, duty-free sales produced £33.6 million revenue for Britannia Airways out of total revenue of £564.3 million, but that sum contributed significantly to the airline's profits.

"The profits generated by duty-free sales benefit our passengers by allowing the airline to keep down the costs of a package holiday," Stuart Brooks, a Britannia spokesman, says.

"Over the past couple of years, these sales have become even more important because of increased competition in the leisure market which is obvi-



Shop till you have to stop: after the duty-free spending in continental supermarkets comes the struggle to get everything home on the coach without breaking a single bottle

ously hugely price-sensitive." Robert Lewis, cabin services manager of Monarch Airlines, agrees that duty-free sales are an important source of revenue, especially with profits being squeezed further by the Government's introduction of a departure tax which most travel operators are trying to absorb.

He says, however, that duty-free sales are an important customer requirement as well as a source of profit. He notes that while alcohol and tobacco sales continue at a steady level "people are more keen on luxury goods such as perfume

and aftershave than they were ten or 15 years ago".

Britain's airports earn the biggest income from duty-free sales. BAA reported recently that revenue from retailing activities at its seven airports in the 1993/4 financial year had, for the first time, exceeded those from runway operations and had become the biggest source of revenue for the group. Out of a total income of £1,098 million, retailing produced £468 million, £280 million of that from duty and tax-free sales.

"Our passengers are telling us that shopping and retail facilities are high on their list of priorities and that retail facilities attract traffic by positively influencing a passenger's choice of airport or airline," Barry Gibson, BAA group retail director, says.

"The Nineties consumer is now more demanding and issues such as convenience, choice, quality, service and value for money are more important than ever before. People's lifestyles today mean that they place a high value on their time and are tending to spend less time on shopping. Given this situation, airports have a clear advantage and by providing a wide range of shops and services for customers in a location that is convenient to them, we can go a long way towards meeting their needs."

Income from duty-free shopping is equally important to

regional airports. At Birmingham and Newcastle, for example, duty-free income represents 40 per cent of pre-tax profits, compared with an average for European airports of 15 per cent.

Independent research calculates that if the duty-free concession was ended, landing charges throughout the EC would have to increase by an

average of 14 per cent if applied evenly to all operators, and by a frightening 31 per cent if limited to flights within the Community.

Even the operators of Le Shuttle, which begins fare-paying services today, recognise the importance of duty-free shopping. For, while Eurotunnel, which runs the Channel Tunnel, is arguing in

the courts for the abolition of duty-free, Le Shuttle has opened sizable duty-free shops in its Folkestone and Calais terminals and has appointed Aer Rianta International, the Shannon-based airport management company, to run them.

Le Shuttle asked designers to create "a quiet, calming and spacious feel" to encourage

travellers to browse in comfort and buy in bulk. It forecasts that earnings from ancillary business in its first year of operation will reach £33 million and most of that will come from duty-free sales. By 1996, the figure is expected to reach £52 million. For yet another company, duty-free sales could make the difference between profit and loss.



Gareth Cooper, Stena Sealink's managing director: "A lot of traffic is generated by duty-free goods"

Duty-free was devised after the imposition of excise duty in 1644

Introduced in the days when sailing ships provided the only means of long-distance travel, duty-free shopping has become an important international industry with conglomerates, even nations, vying with each other to offer passengers the best bargains and greatest variety of goods. *Tony Dawe writes.*

The duty-free concept was devised by the British after the imposition of excise duty in 1644 to allow sailors and travellers to stock up on food and drink for long voyages. Its commercial development began only in the 1950s, thanks to the foresight of Brendan O'Regan, an Irish caterer who set up a tax-free shop at Shannon airport in the west of Ireland.

Initially, his range of goods amounted to little more than Irish lace, porcelain souvenirs and rosary beads but, as more and more transatlantic flights stopped at Shannon to refuel, his shop expanded. In 1974 it was sold to Aer Rianta, which runs Ireland's main airports, and now claims to match Harrods store in London and Bloomingdales in New York for variety and style.

The company operates additional duty-free outlets in Russia, the Middle East and Pakistan, and earns half its revenue from the business. At the start of this year, it was awarded the contract to run the shops at the Channel Tunnel terminals at Folkestone and Calais.

Dr O'Regan's enterprise was copied by other airport operators and, as mass travel developed, duty-free items were recognised as a vital source of income by airlines and ferry operators. Airports remain the biggest earners, with Honolulu topping the list with £275 million last year. BAA earned about £280 million

Top of the shops



from its duty and tax-free shops at London and Scottish airports.

The coveted Best Airport Shopping in the World award has gone this year, however, to Dubai, which expects to earn £90 million from its Government-run complex. Chosen by a panel including Richard Branson, Sir Terence Conran and Sir David Frost, the shops are open 24 hours a day and are at their busiest between 10pm and 2am.

"Fortunately, Dubai international airport is not located in a densely populated area and not restricted by international laws which reduce the number of night-time flights," Mohi-Din Binbendi, director general of Dubai's civil aviation

department, says. "As a result, we have a 24-hour passenger flow-through and we operate to meet its demands."

Gold is the biggest-selling duty-free item, either in jewellery or ingots, and amounts to 18 per cent of revenue. Colm McLoughlin, Dubai Duty Free's general manager, says that tobacco, liquor and perfumes are also popular. "Luxury goods, food items and electronic goods, ranging from personal computers to the latest hi-fi systems, are also top of the shopping lists of many international bargain hunters. We stock up to 60,000 products at any given time, most of which are sourced locally."

Presented by *Courvoisier's Book of the Best*, the award recognises Dubai's place among the world's top duty-free outlets, including Amsterdam, Hong Kong and Singapore. Schiphol Airport won the "World's Best Duty-Free" awards from business travel magazines in Britain, Germany and America last year and its "range of shops and goods and duty-free prices" helped to earn it in September a "most favoured airport" award organised by *Business Traveller Asia-Pacific*.

"Our range of more than 120,000 products, keen pricing and high levels of service are the major factors influencing frequent travellers to vote for us," Johan van Streun, the Dutch airport's head of concessions, says.

"These awards do not mean we will rest on our laurels: they only strengthen our resolve to remain the best." Duty-free shops around the world will be eager to challenge him as the multibillion-pound business moves into a new year.

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Stena Sealink
LINE

Panzanini breaks through to complete Italian World Cup double

Tomba recovers to remain unbeaten

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALBERTO TOMBA'S outstanding start to the Alpine skiing season continued yesterday when he won his fourth World Cup slalom race to stamp ever more firmly his authority on rivals who are becoming just a little bewildered by his imperious form. Furthermore, he did so in style, pipping Thomas Sykora, of Austria, into second place after a breathtaking second run at Lech, in Austria.

Trailing by 0.02sec after the first run of the two-stage race, Tomba, from Italy, set off at breakneck speed on his second ski of the 180-metre Schlegelkopf piste.

It was almost too fast. At the halfway stage, he looked as if he had missed a gate before recovering with, for such a brilliant technician, a rare display of strength and agility.

His combined time of 1min 43.57sec was confirmed only after a slow motion replay showed that his scramble back to the course had been successful. He beat Sykora by 0.02sec.

"I made a big mistake and I lost maybe a second; it's incredible," Tomba said. "I cannot believe it. I really don't know how I recovered. Maybe it's because I'm in good shape. I hope after this I can be better in the giant slalom tomorrow."

Tomba had already won one slalom at Lech this week, on Tuesday, a day after celebrating his 28th birthday. Indeed, he has won all four slaloms of the World Cup season so far, which, with two wins at the end of last season, brings his total of consecutive successes to six. The victory extended his lead in the overall World Cup standings over Michael von Gruenigen, of Switzerland.

Tomba's next race is at Alta Badia, in Italy, where, yesterday, Sabina Panzanini completed an Italian Alpine double and claimed her first World Cup victory when she edged out Anita Wachter, of Austria, to win a giant slalom. It was a perfect place for



Panzanini turns during the run that earned her a first World Cup victory in a giant slalom at Alta Badia in Italy yesterday

Panzanini, 22, to celebrate her breakthrough at World Cup level — she comes from the nearby city of Merano.

Panzanini, whose previous best was second to Wachter in a World Cup giant slalom at Steamboat in the United States in 1992, was predictably delighted by the result. "She was ahead of me two years ago, but I guess things have changed," she said.

Wachter, who has slumped since winning the overall World Cup title in 1993, took a fractional lead over Panzanini on the first leg, but a bad slip just out of the gate nearly sent her tumbling down the piste on her second run and she was lucky to finish the leg, let alone finish second. Panzanini's overall time of 2min 21.03sec was 0.47sec quicker than Wachter's.

The race was staged at Alta Badia after being postponed from the French town of Morzine because of a lack of snow, but the Italian spectators were hardly complaining. As well as Panzanini's win, they celebrated the return of Deborah Compagnoni, the double Olympic champion, who finished third after missing the first nine races of the season with a kidney infection.

Compagnoni, who finished in 2min 22.14sec, said afterwards: "I didn't think I was going to finish on the podium. I'd have been happy to place in the top ten." She won the Olympic giant slalom title in Lillehammer in February to add to her gold medal she collected in 1992 in the super-giant slalom.

Wachter, despite losing, had her best race of the season

after reaching an emotional low last week when she finished fourteenth in a World Cup slalom in Sestriere.

Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, who is the defending overall World Cup champion, was ninth in an event she last won in January 1992. She won her 53rd World Cup race in Sestriere on Sunday.

Results, page 39

McColgan ready for Durham challenge

LIZ MCCOLGAN has declared herself fit to join a strong field in the IAAF World Cross Country Challenge race in Durham on December 31. The event, over six kilometres at Maiden Castle, will be McColgan's third race since she started her comeback by winning a race in Coventry in October. Two Irish runners will provide a stern challenge to McColgan, 30, who won the race three years ago. Sonia O'Sullivan, who dominated women's middle-distance running last summer, is joined by Catherine McKiernan, who won the first women's European title earlier this month.

Wang Xijie and Zhan Jiangyang, of China, intend to run, while other overseas competitors include Rose Cheruyot, of Kenya, Kate McCandless and Carmen Truncoso, of the United States, and Gigi Asha, of Ethiopia. "It's the best women's field we have put together," John Cairns, the meeting director, said. However, notable absentees include Yelena Romanova, from Russia, the Olympic 3,000 metres champion who withdrew last week, and Helen Chappano, from Kenya, the world cross country champion.

New Zealanders wilt

CRICKET: Marais Erasmus, the Boland medium-pace bowler, claimed career-best figures of six for 22 to heap considerable embarrassment on the New Zealanders on the first day of their three-day match in Paarl, South Africa, yesterday. After bowling out Boland for 83, with Danny Morrison and Chris Pringle taking three wickets each, the New Zealanders were confident of building a substantial first-innings lead.

However, they mustered just three more runs than the local side as Erasmus swept through their batting. Only Bryan Young, with ten, and Stephen Fleming, who scored 30, progressed to double figures. Boland fared little better in their second innings when Pringle claimed his fourth wicket of a remarkable day as Boland recovered from three to two to 31 for two.

Mair defeats top seed

TENNIS: Michele Mair, of Edinburgh, recovered to beat Sarah Bentley, the top seed from Surrey, 7-5, 6-2 in the semi-finals of the British Women's Tennis Association Christmas tournament at Queen's Club, London, yesterday. Mair, who won Reebok tournaments at Sheffield and Portsmouth and was runner-up at Wrexham, trailed 5-1 in the first set. She saved two set points in the seventh game, a third at 5-2 and another at 5-4 before taking command. Kaye Hand, 26, the defending champion from Berkshire, who was runner-up in the national championships at Telford last month, beat Laura Austin, of Sussex, 6-2, 6-2 in the other semi-final.

Short appointments

FOOTBALL: Doncaster Rovers have parted company with Bruce McLaren, their general manager and chief scout, and Jimmy Neighbour, their assistant manager. Both men previously worked together at West Ham United and were appointed only three months ago. Oxford United, the leaders of the second division, have extended the contracts of Denis Smith, their manager, and Malcolm Crosby, their coach, until June 1997. Warren Neil, of Portsmouth, has retired with a back injury one game short of his 400th league appearance. Neil, 32, was yesterday released after a year-long battle with sciatica.

Hall's late invitation

BADMINTON: Darren Hall, the England No 1, from Essex, has received a late invitation to take part in the men's singles at the Danish Masters, in Copenhagen, from December 26 to 29. He will join Chris Hunt, the European champion, from Lancashire, and Simon Archer, from Worcestershire, who are taking part in the men's doubles at the invitation-only event. Caro Ciniglio, the England team manager, said yesterday: "We are delighted that Darren has been asked to take part in this prestigious event. It is an honour to be asked. It will mean travelling on Christmas Day, but he feels it is worth it."

Pelé joins Government

FOOTBALL: Pelé, the legendary Brazilian footballer, was named Sports Minister in Brazil's incoming Government yesterday. "Pelé is a symbol of Brazil that has come up from the roots... a symbol of a Brazil that has triumphed," Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the president-elect, said. Pelé, regarded by many as the world's most accomplished footballer, retired from playing in 1976. He is a director of Santos, the Brazilian club with whom he spent most of his career. Cardoso, who won the presidential election in Brazil in October, is due to be sworn in on January 1.

Lomas ousts Holt

TABLE TENNIS: Lisa Lomas has lost her position at the top of the England women's rankings to Andrea Holt, the 1991 national champion. Lomas had been No 1 since 1991, but Holt's recent success in the European League has meant a reversal of their positions. Holt will be spearheading the host nation's challenge at the English Open Championships, which start at Thornbury on January 4. Chen Xinhua, from Rotherham, retains the top position on the men's list, fending off the challenge of Matthew Syed, the No 2, from Berkshire.

Time for Conway

HOCKEY: Nick Conway, who is close to full England selection, has been named in a talented under-21 squad of 16 to play in a four nations tournament at Barcelona from January 6 to 8 against Spain, Germany and Italy. The purpose of the exercise is to prepare the England team for the European qualifying tournament at Genoa in April.

ENGLAND SQUAD: B Barnes (East Grinstead), N Conway (Old Loughborough), J Lewis (Havant), G Fordham (Havant), A Boyce (East Grinstead), Mervyn Koocher (Havant), D Collins (Havant), G Gurnard (Surrey), R Stamp (Doncaster), P Gray (Havant), J Smith (Havant), J Brown (Doncaster), S Wood (Doncaster), J French (Doncaster), D Hall (Gillingham), A Simons (Gillingham), J Wells (Doncaster).

Key players missing from Leicester's festive line-up

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER will chase a third consecutive victory over the Barbarians on December 27 without several players whose names have become synonymous with their success. Jez Harris, the leading points scorer, Tony Underwood, the England wing, and John Wells, their experienced flanker, will all miss the annual Christmas encounter at Welford Road because of injury.

Harris's absence will be felt particularly keenly because the Tigers have chosen not to select John Liley at full back, leaving themselves without a front-rank goalkicker. Liley is unavailable for the first league game of the new year, at Northampton on January 7, so Leicester have decided to play Wayne Kilford instead.

Harris, who has accumulated 175 points in senior matches this season, is resting a hamstring strain which brought his game against Blackheath in the Pilkington Cup last Saturday to a premature end. But, of the club's seven England-squad members, only the younger Underwood misses the game.

Wells has had a knee operation and is unlikely to be fit until mid-January, but Chris Tarbuck will be a very adequate deputy. The Barbarians game represents an opportunity, too, for Jamie Hamilton, who plays at scrum half while Aadel Kardooni recovers from a hyper-extension of the knee ligaments; Hamilton's partner at half back will be Niall Malone, the Ireland interna-

tional, who has been playing for the Irish Exiles.

Outside him, the form of Dicoon Edwards is being carefully monitored by both England and Wales selectors. Edwards, the centre from Wakefield, has come through the England representative programme at schools and under-21 level, but was watched during the cup game against Blackheath by members of the Welsh selection panel, participated in a Welsh

Roger Whittaker has been appointed director of rugby at Nottingham. Whittaker, who spent the past 18 months in charge of Leicester's development squad, retains his position as coach of Scottish Exiles. Nottingham are at present struggling in the lower half of the second division.

senior squad training evening on Monday and may shortly have to decide where his national loyalties lie.

Meanwhile, the mid-term focus of the Welsh domestic season is on the Arms Park tonight, where Pontypridd attempt to halt Cardiff's charge at the top of the Heineken League. Victory will carry Cardiff six points clear of second-placed Pontypridd, who lost the first meeting of the clubs 12-6 in September.

Mark Rowley, the Pontypridd lock, has recovered from a hairline fracture of the

thumb in time to play against Derwyn Jones, the 6ft 10in international brought low with a back injury against Bridgend earlier this month.

Cardiff are without three capped players, Mike Rayer, Nigel Walker and Emyr Lewis, while Pontypridd's central change from the side that beat Newport in the Swalec Cup last weekend sees Matthew Lloyd return as flanker.

The rivalry between these clubs is part of Welsh rugby legend, and has spilled over on occasions. But Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, is optimistic that the players will be stimulated by an anticipated crowd of nearly 15,000. "It's important the players realise their responsibility and show what a good product we have and how they can benefit the game as a whole," Davies said.

The Parliamentary rugby league group, led by David Hinchcliffe, MP for Wakefield, says the Rugby Football Union (RFU) has done nothing to benefit the game by suspending Adrian Spencer for a year. Spencer, the Cambridge University centre who has played rugby league for London Crusaders, is the subject of a motion from the pressure group, which attracted 112 signatures on its first day, condemning the RFU for applying the regulations on amateurism to Spencer.

LEICESTER (v Barbarians): W Kilford, S Mackinnon, S Porter, O Edwards, R Underwood, N Malone, J Hamilton, G Rowlands, R Cockrell, O Gurnard, C Lintack, M Johnson, T Smith, N Back, D Richards.

Hope soars as Funaki jumps to top flight

JAPAN has unearthed a new leading ski jumper in Kazuyoshi Funaki, with less than three months before the world championships in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

With jumps of 96 and 94 metres, the longest in each round, Funaki, 19, outdistanced a good field at a Continental Cup meeting on the Lahti medium hill, in Finland. Funaki placed second on the big hill last Saturday, behind Andreas Goldberg, of Austria.

Japan performed well at the Olympic Games in Lillehammer earlier this year, with Noriaki Kasai and Takanobu Okabe just missing out on medals and the four-man team losing the chance of winning the gold medal on the last jump.

Funaki, however, has come from outside the top group. He was moved up to World Cup level after finishing second and third in the Continental Cup, which he leads in Lillehammer, and he won the first World Cup event of the season, at Planica, in Slovakia.

Funaki's first jump at Lahö equalled the record for the medium hill. He uses a daring style with the body low down between the skis; a technique for which the Japanese are well-known. "The first jump was near a dream effort," he said. "I am in good shape and I think can sustain the form to the German-Austrian jumping week."

Northey follows well-worn trail

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ST HELENS made their third signing from rugby union in eight months yesterday when Andy Northey, 22, the Waterloo and North division centre, changed codes. Northey hails from the town and has an established rugby league pedigree. His father, Keith, played at Knowsley Road in the Sixties.

Northey has signed a 3½-year contract worth around £80,000. His recruitment follows the earlier captures of Scott Gibbs, the Wales international centre from Swansea, and Apollo Perelini, the Western Samoa back-row forward.

"He is an aggressive tackler and has a fine pair of hands," Eric Hughes, the St Helens' coach said of Northey. Northey's ability to adapt is not in question. But it remains to be seen in which position he will be used.

There is no shortage of centres at St Helens and a wing berth is often seen as the best place to learn. But a half-playing forward role is a possibility, given the creative abilities of a player who stands 6ft and weighs 15st 10lb.

Hughes was struck by Northey's power and incisiveness while playing for Lancashire this season, and particularly for the North against the South and South-West earlier this month. Wigan, Warrington and Salford had also made him offers, but Northey felt a loyalty to the club he has supported since childhood.

He is due to make his first appearance in a reserve team game a week tomorrow. "He'll get his first-team chance sooner rather than later," Hughes said.

St Helens, without the financial resources which are at the disposal of Wigan and Leeds, see rugby union and youth development as their main sources of recruitment. Steve Prescott, their Great Britain Under-21 full back, has signed an extended contract until 1998.

Perelini, who pondered his move to league for three years following the rugby union World Cup in 1991, has quickly established himself in the side. Although he retired with a leg injury and a cut eye during the win over Batley in the Regal Trophy third-round replay on Tuesday, he should be fit for the first of two meetings in two weeks with Wigan at home on Monday.

St Helens fought back from 22-14 down to win 30-22 and secure a quarter-final with Wigan at Central Park. They ran in five tries during the last 17 minutes with Prescott completing his hat-trick during this spell. Bobby Goulding, the Great Britain scrum half, paid a visit to the sin bin, but kicked eight goals as well as scoring a try.

Jonathan Davies expects to play his first game for Warrington, against Widnes next Monday, since injuring his shoulder in Great Britain's win over Australia at Wembley in October.

Els named player of year ahead of strong competition

John Hopkins, golf correspondent, reports on the latest honour to be handed to the all-conquering South African

Just before Christmas each year, a panel of golf writers meets in London to select the player of the year from within the ranks of professionals on the European Tour. It is an argumentative and often noisy occasion as the debate sways this way and that.

This year, there were three strong candidates from which to choose: José María Olazábal, who won the Masters, Ernie Els, the South African, who won the United States Open, and Colin Montgomerie, the first man since Sandy Lyle, in 1980, to top the order of merit in successive years. Rarely, if ever, at such a meeting had there been so many candidates with such strong credentials.

Judged by the highest standards, the achievements of Montgomerie were considered to be inferior to those of the other two. He had been beaten by Els in a play-off for the United States

Open, lost to Els in the World Match Play Championship and, though he had competed in 21 events in Europe and won two in a row in August, he had not won a major title.

That left Olazábal and Els, two young turks who are both in their twenties and who had each won their first major in 1994. Who had the better record this year?

Olazábal, the Spaniard, won his first green jacket in some style at Augusta, triumphing by two strokes. Olazábal's victory was the ninth in this event by a member of the European Tour since the start of the Eighties. Olazábal then took the Volvo PGA championship at Wentworth by one stroke, sneaking

past Els with a final round of 65, seven under par, to Els's 69. In August, Olazábal won the highly regarded World Series in Ohio. A very good year by anybody's standards.

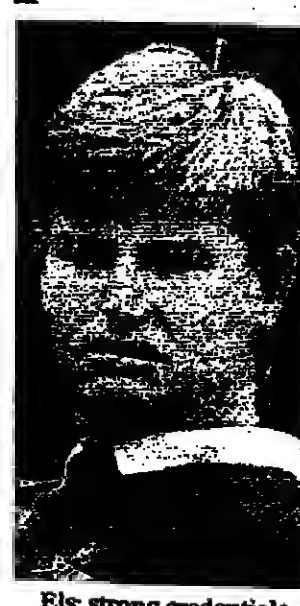
Els, the big South African with the slow smile, started with a runaway victory in Dubai, opening with a 61. He won the United States Open at only his second attempt, and the Gene Sarazen World Open when it was held for the first time in November. These and other performances were sufficient for him to be named rookie of the year in the United States. Then came two performances that were highly significant in this context.

Up to now, it would have been easier to place a piece of paper between them

than to choose one as having a better year than the other. In the World Match Play championship, however, Els defeated Ballesteros in a blaze of two, Olazábal and then Montgomerie, a stunning performance in his first appearance in this autumn classic.

At worst, that enabled him to draw level with Olazábal. In the last event of the year, the Johnnie Walker world championship, he walked away with the title, winning by six strokes, just as he had in Dubai in January. This performance, in an event in which Olazábal declined to play, was just sufficient to give Els the edge over his rival.

Els deserved to be named European golfer of the year. He is only 25. He is a charming fellow with a sound head on his broad shoulders and he gives the impression that he does not really know what has hit him. Next year, it will not be so easy.



Els: strong credentials

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Olympic spirit survives in a modern world



Edwards: ski-jumping visitor to Olympics

Taking part. Being there. That most basic philosophy in the creation of the Olympic Games remains as valid 100 years later. Last week, it was vigorously reinforced; a contradiction for those who allege that the Games have lost their way.

There are 45 member countries of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with a population of less than one million. The smallest is Nauru, the Pacific island, with 10,000; the largest, Swaziland, with 860,000. A gold medal, such as that of Josy Barthel for Luxembourg in the 1952 1,500 metres, rarely arrives. These countries' continuing participation, a characteristic that distinguishes the Olympics from ordinary world championships, was guaranteed by the agreement in Atlanta last week — between the IOC executive board and the biennial assembly of Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) — that any country has the right to enter up to six competitors, irrespective of the qualifying standard set by individual international federations in the attempt to limit numbers to 10,000.

I will long remember the sense of fulfilment of Judd Bankert, the first Olympian of Guam (population 130,000). He had no hope in the 1988 ten kilometres biathlon. When he fell and cut his face, it was out of sight from the public in the pine forest at Canmore outside Calgary. He had spent £12,000 of his own money on training, supported by his wife, just to be there.

He did not finish last and, afterwards, said: "I feel my presence is justified and that competitors like me should be acceptable, as long as they're not a hindrance to others, affecting the outcome of the race."

Under the new agreement, not



David Miller welcomes an agreement that guarantees small countries the chance to compete in sport's greatest championships

more than two competitors — one man, one woman — may compete in a single sport, although the International Amateur Athletic Federation will accept up to four. In sports with rigid, fixed quotas, such as tennis, boxing and badminton, a small number of wild-card places will be available for such entries.

This is not to suggest that the door is being reopened for such competitors as Eddie Edwards, Britain's myopic ski jumper, who are no more than Olympic tourists. A country applying for discretionary entries must pass them first to the relative continental federation and then to a joint IOC/ANOC committee. Com-

petitors must have achieved creditable performances in regional championships, such as the Central American Games, to ensure that they are an embarrassment to nobody, least of all themselves.

It is to be regretted that a move, led by the Cayman Islands and Barbados, to create a Universal Games for the sub-one million countries, failed to get off the ground last week. Such a subsidiary event would promote the identity and performances of minority nations, thereby adding to the unique quality of the Olympics. Robert Nunes, the Cayman Islands president, has devised a format of ten sports over

eight days for about 1,800 competitors and is confident of raising £1.5 million in sponsorship to subsidise poorer nations. Barbados are willing to host, although IOC support, in principle, is undermined by a lack of interest among Europe's eight small nations.

Sponsorship, the key to survival of the Olympic Games, whatever the anti-commercialisation criticism by some, continues to grow. At the assembly last week, there was agreement that all National Olympic Committees (NOC) would sign into the TOP IV package of ten multinational sponsors for 1997 to 2000.

Every NOC will receive a minimum \$40,000; hitherto, some countries have refused to join the first three TOP schemes, believing they could do better by independent sponsorship negotiation. Larger participating countries, such as

Britain, receive in excess of £1 million from TOP and are still free to enter sponsorship contracts not conflicting with the exclusive fields of the TOP sponsors, such as Kodak, who have been associated with the Olympics since 1896.

The IOC also announced last week that it will introduce, for the 1996 Centenary Games, a legal waiver that must be signed by all competitors, coaches and officials, without which they will be ineligible. The waiver is an agreement to resolve disputes by reference to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), under the aegis of the International Council for Arbitration in Sport, rather than by recourse to civil courts. The latter will still remain the ultimate option. The seven Chinese swimmers who recently tested positive for dihydrotestosterone, are expected to take their case to CAS.

Carter sweeps to second win in Foster Cup

By Sally Jones

RICHARD CARTER, of Rugby, confirmed all the high opinions held of him by retaining the Foster Cup by winning the public schools rackets championship at Queen's Club, London, yesterday.

Carter, 17, powered through against the gritty Duncan Stahl, of Halesbury, in straight games, dropping only 11 points in the process.

The unseeded Stahl had done far better than expected to reach the final and fought back superbly from two games down in his semi-final against Mike Bellhouse, of Radley. Yesterday, however, there was never a hint of such a reprieve. Carter never let him into the game, opening with a string of tight, accurate services and retrieving brilliantly from all over the court.

Stahl hit several spectacular winners during some lively exchanges, but although the match was far closer than the score suggests, Carter ultimately had too much weight of shot for his gallant opponent.

A talented all-rounder, Carter has represented Warwickshire at rugby, cricket, squash and hockey at junior level. Although he is a powerful if unorthodox strokemaker, with an accurate, heavily-cut service, it is his timing and speed about the court that set him apart from his rivals.

He, too, faced problems in earlier rounds, and surprisingly dropped a game to the talented Neil Bailey, of Eton, in the semi-final. But his response to that setback was to raise his game to heights that Bailey could not match.

Carter has always looked a champion in the making, winning the junior colts' event in 1991 and taking the colts' championship a year later. He is the latest in a string of fine players produced by Philip Rosser, the Rugby professional.

Richard Montgomerie, one of his predecessors at Rugby, also a Foster Cup winner, is now playing cricket for Northamptonshire.

Rosser is particularly impressed with Carter's mental attitude. In a tight spot, he grits his teeth and goes for his shots. His speed carries him into positions which enable him to retrieve what look like certain winners and put away anything short of a length.

"He's a very bright, canny lad, too, a fast learner, who is quite willing to experiment with a new shot just before a competition," Rosser said.

Even though the mantle of overwhelming favouritism this season has hung heavily at times, Carter, who practises with Howard Angus, the former world champion, has never lacked enthusiasm.

"I adore the speed of the game and the tactical side of it," he said. "When I started and began learning how to straighten the ball down the walls, and put plenty of cut and power on it, I was hooked almost at once."

"Winning the Foster Cup in successive years is a real thrill and a great incentive for me to keep on training to try to make the grade at senior level."

RESULT: Phil R Carter (Rugby) to D Stahl (Halesbury) 15-5, 15-3, 7-3.



Carter had his back to the wall in this rally but retained his public schools rackets championship for the loss of only 11 points. Photograph: Hugh Roudledge.

Pedal power celebrated

THOSE who want to argue the merits of great riders of yesteryear, such as Eddy Merckx, against those of the moderns, headed by Miguel Indurain, will find *Cycling Heroes*, by Les Woodland, a captivating read. The careers of 18 male international champions of road and track are examined, along with that of one extraordinary woman, Beryl Burton.

Woodland recalls that it was 30 years ago that Jacques Anquetil, five times winner of the Tour de France, defended the right of competitors to make use of artificial aids to performance, claiming: "You would be a fool to imagine that a professional who races 235 days a year in all temperatures and conditions can hold up without a stimulant." He was not alone in that belief, but virtually alone in his admission.

Since the 1960s, which saw the death of Tom Simpson during the Tour de France, the

Britain has led the world in introducing the strictest medical controls on cyclists at national and international level. There remains the occasional miscreant but rarely among the champions. It is more likely to be one of his domestics, desperate to stay in a race and help his leader, who errs.

Burton, whose amateur career spanned more than 30 years, calmed her nerves before a major event by knitting, anything from cardigans to gloves. This remarkable Yorkshire sportswoman won seven world championships (two road and five track pursuits) and was, for 25 years, unbeaten as Britain's best all-rounder.

The two-day visit of the Tour de France to Britain this year makes *Inside the Tour de France* a topical read. Irish

sportswriter, David Walsh, has produced a cycling *Canterbury Tales* with a wide cast of characters. Phil Liggett's revised *The Complete Book of Performance Cycling* reflects his coverage of the Tour de France over 20 years.

Overshadowed in size by the previous three titles (but not in interest), is the *Collins Gem Bike Book*. Not much larger than a cigarette packet, it is the handiest book of its type for a newcomer to the sport.

Cycling Heroes: The Golden Years, by Les Woodland (Springfield Books) £17.95. *Inside the Tour de France*, by David Walsh (Stanley Paul) £16.99. *The Complete Book of Performance Cycling*, by Phil Liggett (Collins Willow) £14.99. *Collins Gem Bike Book* (Harper Collins) £3.50.

PETER BRYAN

Milan lose ground in championship race

MARCEL DESAILLY was sent off yesterday as AC Milan, the European champions, were held to a 0-0 draw at Torino in their Serie A match which left them languishing 13 points behind the league leaders, Parma.

Desailly was dismissed in the 73rd minute, receiving the yellow card for a foul and then being sent off for arguing over the referee's decision. Milan, are joint eighth and their main problem is a chronic lack of firepower. They have scored just ten times in 13 league matches this season.

Guy Whittingham, the Aston Villa striker, holds the key to a transfer which could take him to Sheffield Wednesday in a swap deal with Ian Taylor, the

midfield player. Whittingham, who has been unable to command a regular first-team place at Villa Park, is holding talks with Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, after the clubs agreed terms. Trevor is having a word with Whittingham and hopefully something will develop," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said. "The sooner we can get this sorted out, the better. If we can get Taylor, it would give us quite a few options in midfield."

Sunderland have agreed to release Gary Owers and pay a cash adjustment in a bid to sign Martin Scott, the Bristol City full back. Owers, 27, travelled to Aston Gate yesterday to discuss the move with Joe Jordan, the City manager.

Sin-bin better than yellow card

From Mr Dan Crofts

Sir, It is good that rugby union is to adopt the disciplinary system of red and yellow cards in the five nations championship this season (reports, December 13, 14), but the game should take note that the yellow-card system, as practised in football, is seriously defective.

It is both too light for some offences and too heavy for others. This would be corrected if a yellow card meant that the offender took ten minutes off the field, in the so-called "sin-bin", but suffered no further imposition to affect later games.

When a football referee gives a yellow card, an imposition does not accrue until a later match (except, of course, for a second yellow card in the same match). This is of no use in cup competitions, when the side in a losing position knows that it will not play in the next round unless it wins the present match by fair means, or foul, perhaps.

A yellow card is too slight an imposition for such a match, whereas ten minutes in the sin-bin would deal with the matter — straightaway. In league matches, the imposi-

tion is weak because it does not affect the present match and may be unfair because it could affect a later match, which may be against rivals not in a position in the league to take advantage of the weakened opposition.

It is good that the five nations' committee has decided that, in the early stages at least, yellow cards in two successive matches will not lead to a cumulative ban, though it may be different in the World Cup.

Even in such a small league as the five nations' championship, a highly valued player could get a yellow card in each of the first two matches (against the toughest opposition), but would not be banned until the third match, which may be against the weakest side, when his absence would not matter.

The yellow-card system may also, on some occasions, be too severe. A player may be given a card when the referee makes a mistake. But if he had been given ten minutes in the sin-bin, it would all be over and forgotten.

Yours faithfully, DAN CROFTS, 4 Moorland Road, Birmingham 16.

Penalty goals count too high

From Mr C. M. N. Wilson

Sir, As a result of Rob Andrew's impeccable goalkicking in the international rugby match against Canada at Twickenham, the scoreline, particularly at half-time, bore no relation to the differences between the sides.

Rugby is a 15-man handling game and both sides moved the ball well. However, by the time England started to score tries, a cushion of 18 points had already been made for them by Andrew's six penalty goals. That took away pressure on them to win the match and reduced enjoyment for the spectators.

These free shots at goal were taken by a great goalkicker who tees up the ball and kicks it totally unopposed. All the other players have to be absolutely still for however long it takes.

This distorts the game. The impact of penalty goals should be reduced.

Yours faithfully, C. M. N. WILSON, 44 Parchment Street, Winchester, Hampshire.

Resignation with dignity

From Mr Michael Christides

Sir, I find myself in complete agreement with Rob Hughes's appraisal (December 19) of the recent Arsenal malaise. I would go even further.

If the Arsenal manager really cared about the good name of his club, he would choose to resign in dignity (we would all the more respect him for that) once it became apparent that enormous harm is being caused to this historic club by the attendant adverse publicity. As we know from previous instances involving managers or politicians, this can only get worse and, eventually, will lead to an undignified finale.

Such a move need not necessarily be interpreted as an admission of guilt. Proud men have resigned for less and subsequent exonerations have tended to increase their stature. The fact is that Graham has probably reached already beyond the point where his continuing presence

at Highbury, his impressive record notwithstanding, is likely to cause more harm than good, both to him and the club.

With the Premiership title already lost again for this year, a new manager could focus on the other silverware still within grasp and, unthinkable as it may appear at this stage, avoid the risk of relegation which may become more real if Arsenal continue for much longer on their demoralised and rudderless drift.

A new manager could also spend some of the accumulated profits on strengthening the squad with the high-class players it desperately needs if it is to remain one of the top three sides in the country. The Arsenal supporters deserve nothing less.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL CHRISTIDES, 49 Beaufort Road, Ealing, W5.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

PESTA

(c) In Malaysia, a festive gathering, a festival. Malaysian from the Portuguese festa a feast. "The dominant Malay element was gathered together in a highly successful three day Pesta or Festival."

POPPIT

(a) A kind of bead, from the verb to pop: "Poppits were beads with a small bar which pushed into a hole in the next bead so that one could make necklaces or bracelets."

ROSINER

(a) A drink of spirits, a stiff drink. Irish and Ox slang, from rosin slang for a drink. Samuel Beckett, *More Pricks than Kicks*, 1934: "And the rosiners," said Mrs Tough, "will you have that in the lav too? Reader, a rosiner is a drop of the hard."

POPSICLE

(c) An ice lolly, also figuratively and attributively, a fanciful name. Popsicle is a proprietary name in America. "Leon Blatt had just consumed a Popsicle and was now busy scraping his stick with his tongue."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rg6+! is decisive: e.g. 1... Kxg6 (1... fxe6; 2. Qb6+ Kh7; 3. Bx7 Rg8; 4. Q5+ Kg7; 5. Qg6+ Kh8; 6. Bf6+ Rg7; 7. Qh6 mate.

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THE TIMES



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SPORT

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Other national broadsheets are not publishing on Boxing Day. *The Times* is. Place your order with your newsagent now

petition



Former England captain decries club-before-country outlook

Gooch says counties are hurting England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

GRAHAM GOOCH, as proud a patriot as anyone who ever played cricket for England, spoke out yesterday against the self-interest that governs the domestic game and conspires against the success of the national team. His stature is such that nobody in the game should disregard his warning.

Gooch, soon to complete 20 years in Test cricket, was outraged this week by the news that Andrew Symonds, of Queensland, who was born in Birmingham but emigrated to Australia before he could walk or talk, had signed to play a season with Gloucestershire, taking advantage of his birth qualification, yet expressed no intention of seeking a Test career outside Australia.

Symonds's plans may yet be scuppered by adverse publicity and official disapproval, but Gooch sees the move as confirmation that many counties continue to plough a cynical and selfish path with no regard for the greater good or improvement of English standards. He cites other cases, such as Duncan Spencer, the West Australian, playing for Kent, as examples of a trend that other countries, notably Australia, would never tolerate.

"We keep shooting ourselves in the foot," Gooch said.



Gooch: call for action

"Our cricket is not strong. We are struggling to compete at Test level. Yet our system continues to allow soldiers of fortune to come and develop their game at our expense. I have nothing against Symonds, and he obviously has talent, but if he is allowed to play in our championship as an Englishman it will be disgraceful — a sick joke. I spoke on the phone to Allan Border about it and his reaction was that something must be very wrong with our system."

"I can see why Gloucestershire would want him and the sad thing is that if they had tried to sign him, some other county would have done. But things like this devalue our whole system. All that will be achieved is that he will be taught how to play in foreign conditions, making him a more rounded talent for Australia to exploit."

"When I was captain of England, I expressed fears about this through official channels. I was also openly against choosing Martin McCague for an England A tour while he could still opt to play for Australia. I think everyone in our game, possibly bar one overseas player per club, should want to be English in the way they live their lives as well as in where they play their cricket."

"I can see there might be legal and contractual problems to any legislation, but if what it needs to impose a singleness of purpose is for the counties to prove their integrity and come to an agreement among themselves against such unhelpful signings, then that is what must be done."

Gooch's passion and sincerity cannot be doubted. As England captain, he once made an official request, sadly refused, for the national anthem to be played prior to every home Test. On Saturday, here in Melbourne, he will make his 115th Test appearance in his 42nd year. The sheer length of his service is remarkable, but no more so than the obsessive dedication to fitness that makes him run up and down hotel stairwells soon after dawn or, as he did this week, practise sprinting singles in a car park after fielding for five hours in temperatures of 100°F. He does it because the honour still means as much to him as it did back in 1975.



Symonds's punchy style and English birth qualification made him an attractive target for county teams

"To play for your country, you need more than a desire to do well for yourself, you need a patriotic commitment," he said. "I am very proud to be English and the reason I am still playing is because that knot in the stomach when I walk out to bat in a Test match is still there every time."

"I would like to think everyone who played for England felt the same pride, but sometimes I wonder. It is unsuitably with me that we have no common bond in our game and it goes right through to club cricket, where you can find teams with four or five foreigners taking places that English guys should have."

"I think all of us involved with English cricket have to ask ourselves what we are working towards. The unanimous answer ought to be a strong England team, yet we continue to allow things that set us back against the rest of the world."

□ Darren Gough, the Yorkshire fast bowler, is desperate to play in the second Test, which is due to begin in Melbourne on Saturday, but has to convince himself and the selectors that a hamstring injury will not flare up again. "At the moment, I'm hopeful," he said yesterday. "But I won't make myself available unless I am 100 per cent."

Wessels happy to depart

KEPLER WESSELS, who announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday, said yesterday that the decision had not been difficult. "It's not a wrench at all," he said. "I think it's only a wrench if you still have unfilled dreams, but I have achieved all that I wanted to and I have a lot of fond memories, so it's not a problem."

"I have been considering retirement for a long time and I just feel that my motivation for international cricket on a full-time basis just isn't there any more. I am still playing well for Eastern Province and I always wanted to go out on top."

A knee injury which has plagued him for several years kept Wessels out of the first Test of the present series against New Zealand. But he was certain to be included in the side for the second Test, which is due to start on Monday.

Former South Africa captain explains his decision to bow out of international arena

Monday, had he made himself available. "The selectors would have liked me to play, but they understand how I feel," he said.

During his long international career, Wessels represented Australia in 24 Tests and then captained South Africa in 16 matches after the ending of years of sporting isolation caused by apartheid.

The high spots of my Australia days would have to be my debut against England (he scored 162) and a big hundred I made against the West Indies when we beat them in Sydney," he said. "Back home, the highlight has

obviously been captaining South Africa, culminating in the Test win at Lord's last July."

Wessels was quick to reject the suggestion that he might be tempted to return. "Maybe if I was 37 I would think about it, but not at 37."

□ Essex have made three additions to their staff for 1995 — Nick Derbyshire, a former Lancashire player, Courtney Ricketts, an all-rounder who has experience with Sussex and Gloucestershire, and Andrew Hibbert, a former Essex junior batsman.

□ Tight security was imposed in Dhaka yesterday at the start of a four-nation tournament that will coincide with anti-Government protests.

The tournament, hosted by Bangladesh, will also involve teams from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, who will field six Test players, including Ramiz Raja, as captain.

England strike rich vein

BY SIMON WILDE

IF ENGLAND ever again produce a winning cricket team, the county chairmen will be able to dine out with Cedric Brown, the chief executive of British Gas, without so much as a second glance at the price list.

The gate receipts for six Test matches last summer — which saw New Zealand beaten 1-0 and South Africa held to a 1-1 draw — reaped more than £7.6 million, more than £500,000 up on the previous summer, when Australia won 4-1.

When the four one-day internationals are taken into account, England gates totalled £9,675,174, easily a record. The figure was helped by two of the Tests being staged at the most lucrative venue, Lord's. The New Zealand game there realised more than £1.5 million, the South Africa game

— in which England were routed by 356 runs in four days — a grand record of £2.2 million.

Lord's was also the venue for the one-day international with New Zealand in May which was abandoned because of rain, but takings still amounted to £750,000.

The Test and County Cricket Board is hoping that England gates for next season, when West Indies are the visitors, will top £10 million for the first time. Six Test matches and three one-day internationals are scheduled.

Gloucestershire are awaiting discussions between Jack Russell, the captain next year, and Courtney Walsh, his predecessor, in the next few days before choosing their overseas professional for 1995. The club considered several options at a

committee meeting on Tuesday evening, but Walsh, who will return to the county in 1996 after touring with West Indies next summer, has yet to be consulted about a final choice.

Walsh recommended two Indian Test players, Vinod Kambli, a batsman, and Jawagal Srinath, a bowler, but the club is also considering Muhammad Akram, a young Pakistani fast bowler who played with success for the second XI in 1994, and experienced Australians who would not be required by either their national or A teams.

Walsh has been out of contact recently because of his commitments with West Indies. Having returned from a tour of India, he is in Barbados helping to choose the team to visit New Zealand early next year.

Life in the shadows with Britain's secret champion

A small hall, less than 100 spectators, one reporter and a raffle to supplement the takings: just another local amateur Christmas show, or so you would have thought. Had I come to the Lee Taylor, world champion, was appearing?

There was not a poster to be seen in the mile walk from Shildon station to Sunnyside Leisure Centre, nothing to confirm that the man whom his admirers say skates as elegantly as John Curry used to be coming to entertain. No indication whatever that Taylor, in his first exhibition close to home since winning the world title, was appearing in the local Caprice club's Christmas production.

Such is the world of roller skating. Most people lose interest after their first pair of kiddies' skates. The sport of roller skating receives no television and no sponsorship. Becoming Britain's first men's world champion at artistic roller skating has not changed Taylor's life. He is still studying architecture

David Powell finds Lee Taylor, the world's best roller skater, still starved of recognition

full-time at Newcastle University, still relying on his mother's cleaning job to help with his expenses.

Artistic roller skating is ice skating on wheels. Points are awarded for artistic impression and technical merit. There are three categories: figure skating, free skating (short and long programme) and a combination of the two. Taylor, at 21, is the combined world champion, his discipline comprising compulsory figures, short programme (two minutes) and long programme (four minutes). The short free skating programme is made up of set elements of jumps, spins and steps. In the long programme, the skater has freedom of choice.

Taylor's victory in the world championships, in Salomaggiore, Italy, was not expected — "I would have been happy with third," he said — and the start he had

could hardly have been worse. The day before he was due to leave for Italy, he snapped one of his skates and had to borrow his sister's pair.

New skates take time to adjust, but, because sister Kay's were similar to his, Taylor needed only two days and was comfortable in them by the time his competition started.

Two months on and with Taylor staging a series of demonstrations to promote the sport, Kay is still waiting for her skates to be returned. "Since I came back from the world championships, I have been doing these exhibitions and I have not had time to adjust to a new pair," Taylor said.

The factors working against Taylor did not end there. Shildon, ten miles from his home in Darlington, and where most of his practice is

done, does not have an international size floor, not even close. There is one at nearby Newton Aycliffe, but hire charges are more expensive and, given the skater's outgoings — Taylor even had to pay £200 towards his costs to compete in the world championships — money is tight. The best rink in Britain — Roller World at Colchester — is not ideally positioned for our world champion.

Ian Watkins, Taylor's coach, likens his skater to Curry because he is "athletic, artistic and moves effortlessly". Had Taylor chosen ice skating and been equally successful, he would have received more than the split-second coverage he was given on the BBC's *Sports Review of the Year* in the section featuring Britain's minority sports world champions.

"Ice skating would be nice, with all those incentives and shows, the professional circuit as well," he said. "I have been a few times, but I could never get the hang of it." On rollers, though, he is as smooth as ice.



Taylor displays the style that won his title in an exhibition at Shildon Leisure Centre. Photograph: Carl Rutherford

The fun of the reign in Spain

For a Son, Radio 4, 2.00pm

By radio standards, Carey Harrison's audacious comedy is really spectacular. Happily, the scenery does not get in the way of the actors. Exquisitely fashioned though the palaces and farmyards and tilt grounds and battlefields are, they are the servants of Harrison's plot, not its masters. And what a plot it is on which he has threaded his king and queen, prince and princess, vizier, traitor, jousting knight and royal offspring who is half-moon, and half-dragon. Here are all the fun and games that 16th-century Spain probably never knew — and all the skulduggery that it probably did know. In Carey Cookson, *For a Son* gets the director if so richly deserves.

Arthur Smith on the Floor, Radio 5 Live, 8.05pm

Four professional comedians and a lot of would-be comedians take part in this far-and-away debate about Christmas at the London School of Economics. I say far-and-away, but in truth, of the 30 undergraduates taking part, only two have any affection for the season others call the season of good will. Characteristic of the rest are sentiments such as: anyone who celebrates Christmas should be lined up and shot; it is a shame religion has crept into Christmas. Christmas is not as good as it used to be because all the best films have already been on television. Arthur Smith, an alternative comedian, chairs the debate. For some reason, he cannot get away from booze. Peter Dinkley

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00pm Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lynn Parsons, including at 12.30 12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Goodier 4.00 Nick Campion with 4.15pm Newsbeat, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Soundbite: Danny Kelly looks at Christmas records 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-12.05am Claire Sugrue

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy with the Early Show 6.15 Pausa for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 Pausa for Thought 9.30 Ken Sza 11.20 Jenny Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 For Better or for Worse: starring Sue Pollard and Gordon Kaye 8.00 Country Club: presented by Michelle Wright 9.00 Paul Jones presents a mixture of vintage rhythm and blues and the best of the recent releases 9.45 Gospel Train: Duane Dixon presents Bryan Powell and a community choir at the Abundant Life Christian Centre, Bradford 10.30 The Jamieson 12.05am Steve Madden with Night Ride 3.00 Alan Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine, with Chris Chel, including at 9.40 Film Review: 10.30 Europeans: 11.00 Gut Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mark, including at 12.30pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Fire, with Sybil Ruscoe 4.00 John Inverdale: Nationwide 7.00 News 8.00 including at 7.20 the day's sport in full 7.25 Women on Top 8.05 Arthur Smith on the Floor: See Choice 9.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 News Talk, with Paul Reynolds 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am Night Moves, with Steve Sampson 2.05 Up All Night, with Richard Dwyer

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Futurmagazine 5.00 Newshour 6.00 Morgenmagazine 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 The Traveller 7.30 News 7.45 Good News 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.05 Assignment 10.30 It's a Funny Old World 11.00 Newsweek 11.15 BBC English 11.45 Midge's message 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 2.00 Outlook 2.30 The Traveller 2.45 The Traveller 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Haute Actual 5.00 News 5.05 Business 5.15 BBC English 6.00 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.05 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 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Flash, bang, wallop, the end of the lines

Given the spiralling complexity of its plot, there was always a possibility that *Between the Lines* (BBC1) was going to disappear in a puff of smoke. In the event, it went out with several puffs of smoke, a similar number of loud bangs and leaving enough loose ends to tie up a small town's Christmas presents.

Had Tony and Harry really popped it in the explosive East Anglian denouement, *Apocalypse Now* meets the River Stour? Did John Deakin really understand what was going on, or was he making it up as he went along like the rest of us? And what on earth had persuaded Sylvester Le Tussell that full-frontal nudity could be justified by a script that allowed her Action Man boyfriend to sleep in his underpants?

Alas, the answer to these and many other questions (did Deakin really have matching hand-

kerchiefs for all his ties?) will never be known. Last night's episode was the last. No further series are planned. Appropriately, it was Deakin who put his finger on the problem this series has laboured under since our now less than dynamic trio were chucked out of the safe story-lines of the Complaints Investigation Bureau. "My rule in life," he told the man from M16, "is to make sure the fewest people know the absolute minimum." His scriptwriters did not let him down.

The cause of death of the series was acronym overdose. A script was not a script unless it included M16, the FBI, CIA, Armip and Ensis. It was therefore no surprise that Pressman, the nice man at M15 who wanted to turn Ulster into a bloodbath, turned out to be a director of the ENO and a fan of the RSC.

But if it's TITF (and almost

certainly TITFE) to *Between the Lines*, there are elements I shall miss. Tony Doyle was magnificently scheming as John Deakin and Tom Georgeson rock solid as Harry, especially in the difficult days before Harry met Ellie. As for Neil Pearson, earlier incarnations of Tony Clark have already established him as a fine serious, as well as comic, actor. Now it's time to move on.

Perhaps to Hollywood. Or there again, perhaps not if he's been watching the exquisite torture that is *Hollywood Kids* (ITV). Last night's episode should have been compulsory for any parent looking forward to Christmas with something less than relish. Their offspring would seem positively angelic compared with the monsters on parade in Beverly Hills.

Aware (but still perhaps not sufficiently aware) that many of

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

these Macauley Caulkin wannabes would not be familiar to a British audience, David Green and his team eased their exhausted editing machine down a gear or two. The tongue-tied Anna Paquin, Oscar-winning star of *The Piano*, got a whole three minutes. Long enough for her to say "I don't know" several times and long enough for Glenn Close to welcome her to grown-up Holly-

wood. "I'm sure she had no concept of what she just did — she's never done anything before." And may never do anything again that matches up to winning an Oscar at the age of nine, according to the actress Rosie O'Donnell. "I think her life is ruined right now." A singer called Jessica James, 12 years old a savant of hybrid of Barbra Streisand and Shirley Bassey, got five minutes. Long enough for her to introduce us to her ambitious father — "It really doesn't matter which one of us makes the money" — and to her manager: "This man is going to make me millions, billions, trillions." Is that dollars or toys? At times, the preferred currency seemed unclear.

The subject matter of the series inevitably means there is a fine line between ghastly fascination and yuck. I've had enough. *Child Stars* was a damn close call. But it was rescued by the former child

stars who, in the series' hallmark style, knocked down the dream of endless fame and fortune as fast as their seven-year-old successors set it up. Some, such as Henry Winkler, had made the transition to showbiz adulthood successfully. Others like Danny Bonaduce, Danny from *The Partridge Family* had not. What fills the space after the fame has gone, the singing star turned waiter was asked? "Oh, drugs and cars and girls. Then girls on drugs in cars. Even cars on drugs with girls." You just can't keep a young pro down.

The programme took a long time to get to the ruthless exploitation that Hollywood is capable of, but it got there with Gary Coleman, the former child star of *Diff'rent Strokes*. It was another story that probably required more explanation for British viewers, but the stomach-turning injustices were readily

apparent. "Not only did they take advantage of a kid with no kidneys," said the man from the child star support group, "they took advantage of a black kid and they took advantage of a kid who's a midget." Yuck. I had had enough.

A similar feeling of over-saturation filled me after Rhodes around Christmas (BBC2). Gary Rhodes is an engaging fellow and a brilliant cook, but this "Nigel Kennedy of the kitchen" persona that he increasingly adopts is becoming a tad wearying. Last night he was indulged to the point of... indigestion? A new sports car to drive around in, a Docklands flat to cook in and a duet with Gary Glitter all proved too rich a festive pud for me. True, the dishes Rhodes did find time to prepare looked great. But then if we all spent Christmas surrounded by piles of pre-chopped vegetables and frangipane-made earlier, I expect ours would, too.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (99735)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News from Belfast (29798629)
 - 9.05am Bucky O'Hare (1) (8110464) 9.30am Tom Alone: Children's drama (1) (72355)
 - 10.00am News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9798202) 10.05am Playdays (1) (5087025)
 - 10.30am Gogo Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday (9798202) 10.30am Playdays (1) (5087025)
 - 10.30am Gogo Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday (9798202) 10.30am Playdays (1) (5087025)
 - 12.00am News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2739303) 12.05pm Pebble Mill. Alan Titchmarsh presents the final of *A Song for Christmas* (s) (6039900) 12.55pm Regional News and weather (14297464)
 - 1.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (93990)
 - 1.30pm Neighbours. Pam is torn between two lovers; and Gabby's job interview doesn't go as planned. (Ceefax) (s) (35470006)
 - 1.50pm The Great British Quiz. Two teams battle for a place in the final (s) (35474822)
 - 2.15pm FILM: Robin Hood (1973). Disney's animated version of the tale of the legendary outlaw. Includes the voices of Peter Ustinov and Terry-Thomas. Directed by Wolfgang Reitherman. (Teletext) (1437071)
 - 3.40pm Cartoon (4743919) 3.50pm Brail (s) (2792025) 4.05pm The Animals of Farthing Wood. Last in the animated series (1). (Ceefax) (s) (4976280) 4.30pm Pirates (s) (8000193)
 - 4.55pm Newsround (4691822) 5.05pm Blue Peter. A special festive edition (7346339)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (1). (Ceefax) (s) (249754)
 - 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (445)
 - 6.30pm Regional news magazines (975)
 - 7.00pm Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (5445)
 - 7.30pm EastEnders (Ceefax) (s) (205)
 - 8.00pm Children's Hospital. (Ceefax) (4193)
- BBC2**
- 7.00am Tales of the Tooth Fairies (1) (4976377) 7.05pm The Family Man (1) (4976377) 7.10pm Toad Crusaders (1) (2367071) 7.35pm Going Wild (1) (s) (8150358)
 - 8.00am Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (9308006) 8.15pm Thunderbirds (1) (Ceefax) (5796205)
 - 9.05pm FILM: Parade (1974). The season of Jacques Tati's films continues with this, his last (1078030)
 - 10.30pm FILM: The Black Stallion (1979) starring Mickey Rooney. Film adaptation of Walter Farley's classic children's tale. Directed by Carroll Ballard. (Ceefax) (58194193)
 - 12.25pm A Child's Christmas in Wales. Dylan Thomas's prose evokes Christmas between the wars (s) (6164822) Wales (to 1.00). Dad's Army (20577919) 1.00pm Gordon T. Gopher (1) (44961290)
 - 1.10pm FILM: The Band Wagon (1953). Fred Astaire and Jack Buchanan kick up a storm in this musical. Directed by Vincent Minnelli. (95972822)
 - 3.00pm News (Ceefax) and weather. The Bear — Master Builder of the Animal World (8763735) 3.50pm News (Ceefax) and weather (4730445)
 - 4.00pm Today's Day. Semi-final (938)
 - 4.30pm The Food and Drink Christmas Quiz (1). (Ceefax) (s) (822) 5.00pm Rhodes around Christmas (1). (Ceefax) (s) (5551)
- CHOICE**
- Witness: The Morehouse Men Channel 4, 9.00pm. Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, was founded by white missionaries after the American Civil War to train former slaves. Alumni include Martin Luther King, the film-maker Spike Lee and the athlete Ed Moses. The regime is strict. Students arriving at the start of a new year soon get the message: "You ain't here to play games." Secret ceremonies lasting into the small hours are designed to promote brotherhood and pride. The programme follows the college through an eventful year, marked by allegations of embezzlement against the students' union president and a row over whether a fiery black minister should be allowed to preach on campus. Meanwhile, an untypical student from the wrong side of the tracks struggles to keep pace with his more privileged colleagues.
 - Wildlife Showcase: Mountains of the Thunderer BBC2, 8.00pm. The mountains are the Andes of South America and the thunderer the local name for the largest flying bird in the world, the Andean Condor. The programme follows a wing span, striking black and white plumage and a sure nose for a tasty meal. At least it eats only dead meat, thus sparing us footage of wildlife film-makers in which predators swoop on their prey and proceed to rip it bloody apart. Instead we focus on the condor's reproductive habits, though these can hardly be called prolific. Chicks arrive at the rate of only one every two years and are not mature until they reach the age of six. But since condors can live for more than 60 years, there is obviously no hurry. This is the last film in an outstanding series.
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- 6.00am GMTV (8133396) 9.25pm The New Adventures of He-Man (1) (8123396) 9.50pm James Bond Junior (1) (1044332) 10.15pm Bananas in Pyjamas (4138700)
 - 10.20pm ITN News headlines (7398223) 10.25pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (9739754)
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 - 5.40pm ITN Evening News (Teletext) and weather (842990)
 - 5.55pm Your Show. Viewers' opinions (291358)
 - 6.00pm Home and Away (1). (Teletext) (513)
 - 6.30pm London Tonight with Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (193)
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- 6.35am Terrytoons (7088629)
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 - 1.30pm Meerkats. Cartoon (1) (81463)
 - 2.00pm FILM: Night and Day (1945). Hollywood-style biopic of songwriter Cole Porter played by Cary Grant. With Alexis Smith and Morty Woolley. Directed by Michael Curtiz (77026241)
 - 4.20pm What a Hog. Norwegian cartoon (5892648)
 - 4.30pm Fittsen to One (Teletext) (s) (890)
 - 5.00pm Risk Lake. The American chat show host meets two men who refuse to have anything to do with Christmas, much to the dismay of their wives and children. (Teletext) (s) (5367822)
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 - 6.00pm Home Improvement. Comedy series about an American DIY television personality (1). (Teletext) (s) (483)
 - 6.30pm Roseanne (1). (Teletext) (s) (735)
 - 7.00pm Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (767667)
 - 7.50pm Black Christmas: Shooting Stars with Josette Simon (s) (914377)
 - 8.00pm Beat that Einstein. In the final show of the current series, Richard Vanech challenges the team to recover a piano stranded in the middle of a lake. (Teletext) (s) (7803)
 - 8.30pm Spirit of Trees. This week Dick Warner visits an Irish "money tree" and joins a group of contemporary tree-worshippers in Glastonbury. (Teletext) (s) (6608)
 - 9.00pm Black Christmas: Witness — The Morehouse Men. (Teletext) (6071)
 - 10.00pm A Night on Mount Edna. In December 1930 the housewife and superstar Edna Everage threw open her exclusive Swiss chalet for a celebrity party. Guests included Julia Tjebknecht, Gina Lollobrigida, Charlton Heston and Mel Gibson (1). (Teletext) (2920303)
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Tufnell must do England a good turn



Tufnell: highly talented but temperamental

IT WAS in this city, four Christmas-ago, that a spin bowler of plodding gait, sulky demeanour and dubious reputation played his first Test match. The crowds, identifying an unathletic larrikin, taunted the new arrival, but England humoured his moods and tolerated his frailties, for they saw in him a rare potential to win matches.

A year later Australia introduced a similar type. Their spin bowler was overweight and under-disciplined, raw in manner and method. He, too, was considered a risk worth taking only because the intuitive judged he possessed something unusual and hoped that maturity would conquer rebellion.

Both bowlers will play in the Christmas Test this year, starting here on Saturday, but whereas the shadow of Shane Warne dominates the Ashes series, inhibiting all that England do and say, the most remarkable thing about Philip Tufnell is that he has survived this

far. Warne is not only the best bowler in the world, he is among the most fêted of sportsmen, his image the epitome of outdoor Australia. Tufnell's fame is by notoriety and his career hangs by the twin threads of his volcanic temper and the fraying loyalty of those who must live with his darkest side, while coaxing and coaxing from him the talent that still lurks within.

Comparisons with Warne are mostly fatuous, such is the scale of his achievement. But as he shared Tufnell's maverick background and the mockery that greeted his first, faltering steps at the highest level, this one is valid. In his three years of Test cricket Warne has taken 145 wickets in 30 games. Tufnell's 62 wickets come from 11 matches fewer and the fragmented shape of his career reveals the tremors and turbulence that have, more than once, brought it close to destruction. It is difficult to imagine a cricketer experiencing a stormier year than



Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, reports from Melbourne on the maverick spin bowler for whom time is fast running out

this has been for Tufnell. He was charged and convicted over a domestic affray, and he played no cricket for half the summer. It is astonishing that he is here, as England's senior spin bowler.

When he began to appear shorn of his stubble, smiled more than usual and practised with unusual intensity, the optimists courted the hope that he might have reformed. Sadly, the rage remains within him and nothing he has done so far on this tour — a tour he must surely regard as a final chance — has convinced those in authority of his ability to finally live up to the soaring hopes once invested in him.

There have been unpleasant scenes on the field, one involving a

fine for throwing down a ball but others concerning gratuitous remarks to batsmen and insubordination to his captain. Nor has his conduct and input off the field been deemed impressive. Absenteeism in the early days of the tour caused the management to consider his future on it and his relationship with those in charge has been precarious since. Michael Atherton, indeed, is now acquainted with all the difficulties with Tufnell that so exhausted Graham Gooch before him.

All of this is such a shameful waste, for there is plenty to admire in Tufnell's cricket. His fielding is unrecognisable from its clumsy and uncoordinated origins and his bowling remains, at its best, highly

effective, if seldom inspirational. During the first Test in Brisbane he so frustrated Australia's best batsmen with his defensive line and fields that Mark Waugh foolishly gave away his wicket.

On Tuesday, in Toowoomba, he repeated the tactic and took five wickets in an hour. There is nothing to say he cannot influence the second Test with such methods and he will certainly have the chance to try. But equally, and alarmingly, there is no guarantee that Tufnell will hold his concentration, or his temper, long enough.

It is long past time for him to realise that cricket has treated him well and to ponder seriously what he would do without it. For a man who can be amusing and sensitive, Tufnell is capable of much that is charmless and insular. He is close to virtually nobody in this England party, many of whom regard him with either bemusement or exasperation. Everyone wants him to

succeed, everyone acknowledges his ability, but the desire to cosset and indulge him is past.

Tufnell has to speak and act for himself now. The performances which sustain his career, those magical days in Kennington and Christchurch, are too long ago to be cited as evidence in his favour. England have no compelling candidate to replace him but someone surely will unless he grasps the opportunity that some would say he scarcely deserves.

The next two weeks, the next two crucial Tests, are Tufnell's stage as well as Warne's, for the expected over-prepared pitches, on which Warne will prosper, will assist Tufnell just as much. But if the comparison becomes too odious, if his input is indifferent and his image unaltered, then Tufnell's supply of loyalty may quickly and finally expire.

Gooch's warning, page 42

Parry calls for help in cleaning up football

By Our Sports Staff

RICK PARRY, the chief executive of the FA Premier League who is heading an investigation into alleged irregularities in transfers in the FA Carling Premiership, yesterday admitted he wanted help from Fifa, football's world governing body, and Uefa, its European ruler, to help clean up English football. He also said that football needs a permanent body to monitor corruption in the national game.

"I don't want to get into the business of unnecessary bureaucracy, but it seems clear to me that we now have to keep monitoring the game carefully to show that it is clean and honest," Parry said. "At the moment, we have a special Premier League commission looking into allegations that have emerged about the game in this country and that, of course, is my prime concern, but, inevitably, with so many transfers of players to and from foreign clubs, other country associations come into the picture."

"There are, of course, football agents to consider as well. At the moment, anybody can become an agent without needing qualifications or a licence, but, by the start of next season, I am hopeful we will have a format in place to regulate them in this country."

"We need Uefa's help — and probably Fifa's help as well — to draw up hard rules and regulations for transfer dealings between clubs of one country and another. The commission we have already instigated might well have to be an ongoing thing to keep a check on future deals. It would be unlikely to retain the same personnel, but it would seem appropriate to have a continuing monitoring device."

Parry, who is working with Steve Coppell, the former England player and Crystal Palace manager, and Robert Reid QC

on a panel of investigation into alleged irregular transfer payments, denied that English football is "rife with corruption", even though he confirmed that more leading managers will be interviewed in the new year.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, has already been questioned over allegations that he received a £285,000 payment as part of John Jensen's move to Highbury from Brøndby, the Danish club, more than two years ago, but Parry stressed: "I do not believe the game is rife with corruption. There is no evidence to support that. There is precious little hard evidence at all."

"We will be talking to two or three FA Carling Premiership managers early in the new year, together with other club officials, but we are not prejudging. The over-riding impression I have from Premier League clubs is that they want to run things straight."

Parry's panel is investigating 23 transfers involving Scandinavian players to English clubs, but he pointed out: "Many of the transfers pre-date the formation of the Premier League."

"For the last 12 months, all our clubs have been preparing reports for the Inland Revenue. The notion that too much untoward has been happening while that process has been going on is a little remote. So far, we do not have too much evidence of transfers in the last six months being at risk."

Malaysian police have arrested a bookmaker and two more football players in their continued crackdown on corruption in the country's fledgling professional league. The arrests bring to 26 the number of players being detained by Malaysian authorities and police have said they are planning more arrests.



Alberto Tomba, of Italy, produces breathtaking skiing to win the World Cup slalom in Lech, Austria, yesterday. It was his fourth win of the season. Report, page 40

Stewart states Birmingham's case

By John Goodbody

BIRMINGHAM yesterday increased its challenge to be the home of a new national football stadium to replace Wembley. A delegation of Birmingham City Councilors met Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association, for 1½ hours to press their case that the city should be preferred to either Manchester or London.

The Premier League is committed to the project for a new national stadium and is willing to inject up to £60 million with the remaining cash coming from the Millennium Commission. However, the league

has yet to decide which city should receive its support.

Birmingham would locate the venue, holding 70,000 people, on a 110-acre site, close to the National Exhibition Centre, as it had envisaged in its unsuccessful attempt to stage the 1992 Olympic Games.

Theresa Stewart, the leader of Birmingham council, said: "We have made a great deal of progress in preparing this location. Not only is the national stadium site in total ownership of the city council, but millions of pounds have been spent to make the NEC uniquely accessible for the whole nation."

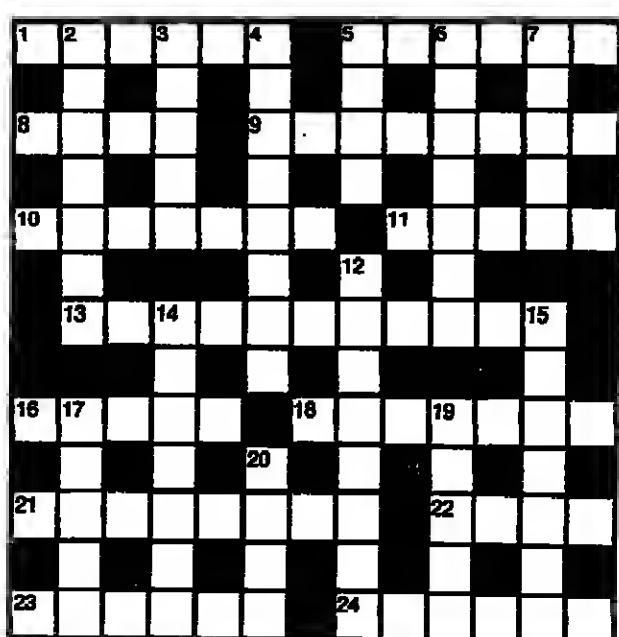
A railway station and airport adjoin the NEC, which is also well served by the motorway network.

However, Manchester will have to build a stadium if it is awarded the 2002 Commonwealth Games. It has already beaten both London and Sheffield for England's nomination and its likelihood of holding the event has increased because there is a lack of committed opposition from any other Commonwealth country.

Manchester City Council already owns the Eastlands site, two miles from the city centre, and the area has been cleared in preparation for the

building of an important stadium. A cycling velodrome has been erected alongside the proposed venue. Both formed part of Manchester's unsuccessful bid to stage the 2000 Olympic Games.

The Football Association is committed to staging England internationals, the FA Cup Final and the FA Charity Shield at Wembley until 2002. However, it is possible that Wembley will rebuild its stadium, after it has staged the 1996 European championship final. Wembley remains an attraction for foreign teams, but the present sightlines are unsatisfactory for many spectators.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 351

ACROSS

- 1 For the moment (3,3)
- 5 Failure, death (6)
- 8 Admonish (4)
- 9 Clergymen generally (3,5)
- 10 Formal letter (7)
- 11 Violent gale (5)
- 13 Be a big success (2,4,1,4)
- 16 Doctor who sold soul to devil (5)
- 18 Very stupid (7)
- 21 Convulsion: sudden attack (8)
- 22 Audio equipment (2-2)

DOWN

- 2 Lesson; Berks. town (7)
- 3 Sugar-grasping tool (5)
- 4 Give reason to act (8)
- 5 Consider, judge (4)
- 6 Citizen army (7)
- 7 Indian stringed instrument (5)
- 12 Odd-job person (8)
- 14 Fiasco: event ruined by rain (4-3)
- 15 Providing income (7)
- 17 Swiftly (5)
- 19 Ancient Irish alphabet (5)
- 20 Funeral fire (4)

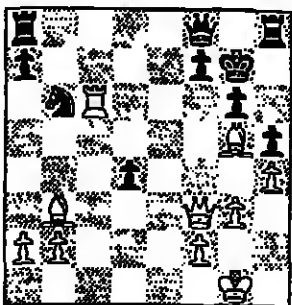
SOLUTION TO NO 350

- ACROSS: 1 Sail arm's length 8 Recoup 9 Strike 10 Hobo
12 Giraffe 14 Afflict 15 Hair 17 Loggia 18 Reverse 20 Drawing-board
DOWN: 1 Take the floor 2 Faro 3 Classic 4 Increase
6 Mope 7 Take for a ride 11 Ball gown 13 Scrawny 16 Grab
19 Veal

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Alekhine - Opocensky, Paris 1925. All White's pieces are aimed menacingly at the black king, and he now has a chance to rip the defences away. Can you see how?



Solution, page 41
Raymond Keene, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PESTA

- a. A swarm of locusts
- b. Green cheese lasagne
- c. A festival gathering

POPPIT

- a. A bead
- b. A type of sweet
- c. A miniature Pekingese

ROSINER

- a. A stiff drink
- b. A cellist
- c. An espalier for roses

POPSICLE

- a. An endorsement
- b. A child's reclining bike
- c. An ice lolly

Answers on page 41

SPECIAL ISSUE

RUGBY WORLD

In 1994, a player was tried for manslaughter after an opponent died, others were punched, bitten and kicked in the head

It was a year of VIOLENCE

FREE GIFT

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

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